

Correspondence.

ROME, GEORGIA,
March 3, 1909.

Editor Deseret News:—Knowing that you and the Saints generally, desire to hear occasionally from those laboring in Zion's cause abroad, I put you the following from this far off Georgia, where "negro equality" and "the State in the Union or out" are the all absorbing questions, while a few only are seeking the Kingdom of God and His righteousness. I have lately baptized several persons here and ordained two of them to the office of Elders in the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. One of these holds a commission under Governor Bullock, as a Notary Public, and now he holds a commission to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord and the day of vengeance of our God. His name is Felix Pratt. Many are believing while the heathen rage and people imagine vain things. I think that I am safe in saying that I have been the cause of more talk along the track that I have traveled, through Mississippi, Alabama, and this State than any man that has visited these parts for years. I am often told that the preachers of the day will have me for a text for years. Of course they cry out "imposter," and say "don't read the 'Mormon' books." But, notwithstanding this, I frequently hear of others who are seeking my friends for "Mormon" books. Great exertions are made by the hirelings to keep their flocks together, and the arguments used against the "mormon" faith by the Latter-day Saints, are similar to those used against the prophet and Christ and His followers, and at a later date against Galileo, and Columbus, and still later against Robert Fulton and a thousand others who have effected reforms, when nine-tenths of mankind cried out "crazy." But time proved who was crazy.

Why not admit that Joseph Smith was the great forerunner of Christ's second coming? Is it any harder to do that than to admit that all these great and good persons (that we have named) were right when the masses opposed them? Is not "mormonism" in exact accordance with the Bible? We challenge the world on this point. Produce your cause, bring forth your arguments, or say it is true, and no longer resort to the paltry subterfuge of "delusion," "imposter," etc. Has not "mormonism" already brought sure peace, being and unimagined happiness to hundreds of thousands of people who have come out of all churches and governments? Has it not produced results, for good, unprecedented in the history of the world since the days of the apostles and if it can unite and make happy a State, can it not make the nation or the world united and happy and bring in that order of things that righteous men have tried to establish since man had a being on the earth? Did not Christ say that he would not own a people except they were united on righteous principles? And have not the prophets declared that the knowledge of God shall cover the earth and the nations make war no more? This great work must have a beginning and is not the work of a moment. All people are looking anxiously to the future. The eyes of the world are upon Zion.

When I state to the people that Zion is established in the tops of the mountains, and prove my position by the Bible, etc., editors and others often say to me:—"O, yes, you are all right now, but wait till the Union Pacific Railroad is done and modern civilization will press upon you, then your cities will be full of crime and you will be divided and torn up like us Methodists, Baptists, etc." But I stoutly affirm that "Mormonism," so called, is the government of God and cannot divide, and that oil and water will not mix, and that the Saints will no longer patronize their enemies in their midst, since our leader has advised the people on that point. What say you up there in Utah, am I right? I know your answer full well, and while the public press acknowledge that the one hundred million paid annually to orthodox preachers is thrown away, let us show to the world an example worthy of imitation.

About four weeks since my son Jesse came to me from Tennessee, where in company with bro. Church and Dix, he had spent part of last season. Three days since bro. C. H. Higgs came to me. He has been laboring in the southern and middle part of Georgia and western Alabama. He seems to be a young man of talent and promise, and I believe has been doing all in his power to sow the seeds of truth in the hearts of the people in Pennsylvania, and in those parts where he has been laboring, and has met with some success. These two young elders expect to continue their labors in these parts, and their address will be Rome, Georgia. These brethren join in love to all Saints.

JESSE W. CROSBY.

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