

## EDITORIALS.

## THE MORMONS AND THE CHINESE.

WE clip the following from the *Sacramento Record-Union* which seems to have a pair of scales that can accurately weigh the ex-pastor of the Washington Church with the chimes:

"Dr. Newman, the other day, accused Blaine and Sargent of having neglected to do anything to put a stop to Mormonism, which he then proceeded to misrepresent and caricature in a way which would have been called flagrantly dishonest if a layman had been guilty of it. If Dr. Newman knows anything about Mormonism he knows that there is an element of earnestness and sincerity in it quite as real and genuine as exists in connection with any other creed. If, however, legislators are to be blamed for having left Mormonism alone, then every man who has sat in Congress for the past twenty years is equally culpable with Messrs. Sargent and Blaine, for it is notorious that the issue has been systematically avoided by Congress, and for reasons which Dr. Newman ought to, but quite possibly does not, understand. It is rather curious that it is scarcely ever in any other kind of talker than a clergyman that we find the recklessness of assertion and the willingness to slander whole communities, which characterizes Dr. Newman's recent lecture. He evidently does not know anything about the Chinese question, and yet he is ready to misrepresent the people of California upon it, and to strengthen his point he attempts a parallel between the Chinese and the Mormons which only a wanton indifference to truth can explain. Dr. Newman's lecture was fitly concluded by an exhibition of trained Chinamen, who, for a consideration, were quite willing to represent themselves as converts to Christianity. They charmed their audience by playing their native musical instruments, and they sang what they call hymns. It may interest Dr. Newman to know that in the opinion of clergymen who have lived among the Chinese, and who have no personal interest in pretending that they are amenable to "evangelization," all the talk about converting them is the veriest moonshine, and principally for the reason that they cannot be made to concede the superiority of the Christian scheme to their own. This is an obstacle which has attended missionary labors generally, we are well aware, but it is peculiarly stubborn in the case of the Chinese, and therefore the presumption is that Dr. Newman's Imperial Troupe of Celestial Converts to Christianity is neither more nor less than a troupe of arrant impostors, only fit to gull credulous old women and *gobsmouches* of green Eastern parsons.

## "PAY AS YOU GO."

THE Bridgeport (Connecticut) *Standard*, after thinking over the course taken by the managers of city and State affairs for some years past, has come to the conclusion that the soundest financial policy is John Randolph's golden rule, "Pay as you go." The town and city debts of Connecticut amount to \$17,084,331.74, the interest on which helps to make a big load of taxation. The improvements which cost the most of this large sum, were no doubt highly appreciated by the people. But they were made at a time when wages were high and money commanded big interest, and now the weight of the burden of debt is felt to be very oppressive. Commenting on this and regretting the policy pursued, the *Standard* says:

"True, we should not have had the improvements quite so soon, but then most people would willingly wait a while rather than assume such a burthen as now troubles the taxpayers. So far as accumulating the money is concerned, it would have been easier to raise it than it is to pay the interest now. So now our creed is: Let us have all the improvements we can get, but before making them raise the money they will cost, and *pay as we go*."

Under the present laws there is no danger of the municipalities of Utah contracting large debts, or levying high taxes to pay heavy interest. The charters of the various cities prescribe certain limits to their borrowing powers. The Salt Lake City Act of Incorporation, which may be taken as a sample for most of the others, provides in section 60, "that the interest on the aggregate of all the sums borrowed and outstanding, shall not exceed one-fourth of the city revenue arising from taxes assessed within the corporation during the preceding year." This confines the possible debts of our cities within very narrow bounds, and will prevent plunging into the sea of troubles in which most of the towns and states of the Union are now struggling to keep afloat.

If there is any needed improvement which would justify a large outlay of money and the exercise of the borrowing power to the utmost extent of its chartered right, we think it is the project now under consideration by this city for an adequate water supply. It is no fancy adornment, nor rich man's hobby, but a measure that has become a pressing necessity, the benefits of which would be immediate and continuous, according to the citizens of to-day as well as to their posterity. Yet we hope that sufficient wisdom will be developed in the discussion of ways and means for its accomplishment to show how the demand of the times can be supplied, with a due regard to the policy advocated by the *Standard*, and which has been exemplified in the past career of this Territory—"Pay as you go."

## ANTI-"MORMON" INCONSISTENCY.

WE are permitted to make the following extract from a letter received from a lady in Michigan by a friend in this city. The writer is a member of the M. E. Church:

"\* \* Please accept my thanks for your information concerning Mormonism. It gave me some new ideas, let me assure you. That the Mormons have been and are a much abused and persecuted people I have no doubt. What you have said about the persecutions the Mormons have endured during their residence in the Eastern States has awakened my sympathy for them. I think that if our public men at Washington would lead pure and upright lives themselves, and would try to set examples worthy of imitation by our young men, and try to break up the dens of infamy and shame which abound in all our large cities to such an alarming extent, the nation would have greater cause to honor them than it will if they do put a stop to the practice of polygamy by the 'Mormons.' I think it would be fully as becoming, if our public men would not raise such a hue and cry about polygamy. If I were going to practice polygamy, I would be open and fair about it. I think there are many things more to be feared than polygamy. I never thought much about Mormonism until lately, and probably would not had not the subject been agitated so much of late. I am sure for myself that I should never fancy Mormonism, but those that do believe in it have a right to their opinion. I like consistency in all things, and it seems to me the height of inconsistency to see men trying to break up a community composed of people who are peaceable, and who have more real religion than their persecutors, inasmuch as they only practice what they preach, while their persecutors preach monogamy and virtue, and practice polygamy and vice. I could not believe in polygamy, and would not marry a man who did. I should be too selfish to share a husband's love with another woman, I know. But if other people choose to live in that condition, even if it were in my power to do so, I would not prevent them.

In all ages of the world there have been dissensions arising from a difference of opinion on religious subjects, and in all instances the stronger party seemed to take delight in persecuting the weaker. St. Paul's benediction: "And now abide faith, hope and charity, but the greatest of these is charity," contains as much truth to-day as when it was pronounced in the church at Corinth long centuries ago, and it is one which our

virtuous (?) congressmen could take to heart, when considering the Mormon question, with a great deal of propriety.

## A NEW SHIP CANAL.

THE project of constructing a ship canal through the Isthmus of Darien has been agitated at intervals for many years. Several routes have been surveyed and although the obstacles in the way are of no small magnitude, yet it has been shown that they are not insurmountable.

Lieutenant Wyse, of the French navy, has figured prominently as an explorer and surveyor for the proposed canal. He has decided in favor of the Atrato River route. A convention of those who are interested in the scheme is called to meet at Paris on the 15th of May, when Lieut. Wyse will make a full report of his investigations and their result.

The advantages of a short cut from the Pacific to the Atlantic will be perceived at once by every thoughtful mind. Trade would be stimulated at once between China, Japan, the Pacific Coast of North and South America, and the Pacific Islands, with the American ports of the Atlantic. The canal would be a powerful rival for the carrying trade against the Central Pacific and Union Pacific Railroads, and the country would reap the benefits of the competition.

We hope to see the plan brought to a consummation, and will be ready with our congratulations on the marriage of the great Atlantic and Pacific Seas. We believe in the canal and expect to record its completion.

## THE RECORD OF OUR ENEMIES.

THE notice published in the *NEWS* a short time since, requesting the Saints to gather up and forward to Elder A. M. Musser all the authentic information they could obtain, in relation to the authors of persecutions and misrepresentations of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its leaders and members, has attracted some attention outside of our borders. The *Cincinnati Times*, referring to it, calls it "a new phase of Mormonism." This is quite a mistake. It is an old "phase" revived. A great amount of information of this kind, with particular reference however to the persecutions in Missouri, was placed on record in Nauvoo during the lifetime of the Prophet Joseph Smith. And it is by his direction, now re-issued by President John Taylor, that the work of completion is to be recommenced.

The *Times* thinks that, "There is something ominous in the language," asks "What do they want with the names if they have no sinister designs?" and remarks, "It looks as if the programme of these people might include sensational, stirring events." Neither the *Times* nor any other paper or person need borrow any alarm in regard to this matter. We want posterity to know who have been our friends and who our enemies; and desire that our children may have an authentic and reliable record of the sufferings of their parents for the truth's sake. We have full faith also that Eternal Justice will mete out to all the measure they have dealt out to others, and we want the names of our maligners and defamers, and those who have aided in the mobbings and murderings, the violations and robberies of the Latter-day Saints to be preserved for reference, that the world may know the fate of those who fight against the Zion of our God.

History has already shown that none who have done this permanently prosper, but that those who wilfully seek to injure this work and aim to destroy the anointed of the Lord invariably come to grief and prepare a pit for their own feet. Defeat, chagrin, disaster and disgrace have covered the names of many noted men who have figured in the various attempts which have been made to crush this Church and people, and we have excellent reasons to anticipate a demonstration, in the case of others, of the trite saying, "History repeats itself."

There need be no alarm as to any "sinister designs" on our part. We are occupied too much in watching the "sinister designs" of those who are constantly plotting for our overthrow to leave us any considerable time for retaliation. But we want to have our foes known, for many of them will yet pretend to be our friends, and it is written, "Fearfulness shall surprise the hypocrites;" and when they come cringing and crawling for favors in the days of our prosperity and power, it will be just as well to fulfil the Scripture by pointing them to the record.

As to the "sensational, stirring events," the *Times* is right in its conjecture, for such are close at hand. But it will be the Almighty, who has declared, "Vengeance is mine, I will repay," who will be the Author of those sensations which will cause some to cry to the rocks, "Fall on us," and to the mountains, "Hide us," when the Avenger will sweep away their refuge of lies and reward them double for all their iniquities.

Meanwhile, the Latter-day Saints should keep in mind the instruction of the departed Prophet and the living Apostles; and gather up all the information of this character within their reach, so that the Elder appointed to make the compilation may have the materials at command to make his work thorough and complete.

## "MIRACULOUS" CURES.

RECENTLY there have been quite a number of reported cases of healing without medical aid in various parts of the United States. The method adopted is becoming known as "the prayer cure." Several persons claim that they have been healed in a remarkable manner in answer to prayer, some through their own requests offered in faith, some through the intercessions of others. A colored woman named Mrs. Mix, of Wolcottville, Connecticut, is credited with several successful administrations, by anointing with oil, and the laying on of hands. She is opposed to medicine, does not charge any fee for her services, but has faith in the Lord, and seems to be able to inspire faith in the hearts of others.

The comments that are made on these cures are interesting to those who believe in the restoration of the gospel in the latter times. Some writers attempt to throw discredit on all these reported cures, taking the ground that they are contrary to natural laws and common sense. Others, who believe that such healings attended the ministry of the ancient servants of God, doubt these modern manifestations because "the day of miracles is past." And others, who believe in both, take comfort from the fact that they are not confined to any one denomination, but have occurred among the Catholics, Congregationalists, Methodists, etc., as well as among the "Mormons," and therefore "do not testify to the superiority of one sect above another."

For our part, while not able to vouch for the truth of these reports nor to say that they are not exaggerated, we see no reason to doubt the fact of their occurrence. It is one of the principles of our church that the signs promised by the Savior will "follow them that believe" in one age as well as another. And if their manifestation among various sects does not prove the "superiority of one sect above another," as we readily admit, it does prove that this tenet of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is true. And it should be born in mind that one of the chief objections against Joseph Smith and his followers, in the rise of this Church, was their declaration of this very doctrine. It was used as an argument against them by theologians, and cited against them by the military officers in Missouri, who, with Christian magnanimity, sentenced Joseph Smith and his companions in arrest, to be shot in the presence of their families, and the General who harangued the afflicted Saints on that occasion exhorted them to "scatter abroad and never organize again with bishops and apostles, or pretend to the gifts of healings and of tongues, of visions and of prophecy."

When the gospel was restored through our Prophet, now martyr-

ed, the idea that healings of this nature were possible in this age was scouted by Christian and infidel. It is quite a satisfaction to see that many of the doctrines then rejected are beginning to receive recognition by those opposed to us. Christ taught that "all things are possible to them that believe" and his appointed servants in the last dispensation have testified and proven that this doctrine is true, and that God is the same yesterday, to-day, and forever. Let the glory of all these healings, wherever manifested, be ascribed to Him who holds the secrets of nature and whose ears are ever open to the cries of those who call upon Him in faith.

## CONVERSION AND COLONIZATION.

BISHOP HANS JENSEN and the Saints in Conejos, Colorado, have surveyed an excellent town site, with good farming and meadow land close by, with a fine stream of water that can be brought on to the land with comparatively little labor. The townsite is to be one mile N. and S., half a mile E. and W.; the blocks 32 rods square and the streets six rods wide. The proposed name of the town is "Manassa." Elder John Morgan, with a company of 60 souls from the *Southern States*, is expected to arrive there on the 29th of this month.

A number of the brethren of Weber and Davis Counties are about to form a colony in the vicinity of Market Lake, Idaho, where there is a large tract of rich land.

It is encouraging to witness the extension of the settlements of the Saints and the success which crowns the efforts of our proselyting and colonizing missionaries. Zion is to "lengthen her Stakes and to extend her borders," to "increase and not decrease," to "build up the waste places and make the wilderness and the solitary desert glad." The gospel must be preached to every creature, the gathering must be accomplished, until the sons and daughters of Zion cry, "Give us room that we may dwell."

The pioneer work is as requisite as the preaching work, and the Lord will crown with success the labors of His servants in every capacity, when they keep His laws and observe His counsels while teaching them to others. There is a glorious future for those who endure the trials of the present and "despise not the day of small things." In this latter-day work and gathering dispensation, colonization is as necessary as conversion.

## FRUIT-EATING WORMS.

THE *Provo Enquirer* states that "Nearly all the peach trees are attacked at their roots with a small white worm, which bores in and around the trunk just under the surface of the ground. Its ravages are so severe that if let alone, the worm will destroy the tree."

It would be well for our citizens to examine their fruit trees and, if possible, arrest the increase of this new pest at once. We have already spoken about the necessity of making a general attack on the codling moth. If the people of Utah and particularly of this city desire to save the fruit crop of '79, they should without delay scrape their trees, clear off the loose bark, especially in the forks of the trees, and burn the scrapings. A coat of lime-wash to follow this treatment will aid in the destruction of insects. Now is the time for action against the eggs and worms. When the moth begin to fly, of which there will be few if this assault is general, means can be taken to catch them at night and thus prevent the laying of a new batch of eggs to develop into fruit-eating worms. Let us have good fruit again.

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

The *Cincinnati Times*, under a new management, has developed into a most excellent evening paper, containing a variety of news and interesting reading matter, served up in a very attractive form. It is a great improvement on the old *Times*, and that was far above the average of evening journals.