

father, who died in Quincy, Illinois, after we were driven from Missouri. My recollection is better with regard to my earthly father than it is in regard to my heavenly Father; but as to knowing of what species he is and how he is organized, and with regard to his existence, I understand it in part as well as I understand the organization and existence of my earthly father. That is my opinion about it, and my opinion to me is just as good as yours is to you; and if you are of the same opinion you will be satisfied, as I am.

I know my heavenly Father and Jesus Christ whom he has sent, and this is eternal life. And if we will do as we have been told this morning, if you will enter into the Spirit of your calling, into the principle of securing to yourselves eternal life, eternal existence, eternal exaltation, it will be well with you. But if, after being put into a carriage and placed upon the road, after having everything prepared for the journey that infinite wisdom could devise, this people stroll into the swamp, get into the woods among the brambles and briars, and wander around until night overtakes them, I say shame on such a people.

I am ashamed to talk about a reformation, for if you have entered into the Spirit of your religion you will know whether these things are so, or not. If you have the Spirit of your religion and have confidence in you, walk along and continue to do so, and secure to yourselves the life before you, and never let it be said, from this time henceforth, that you have awakened out of your sleep, from the fact that you are always awake.

We talk about the reformation, but recollect that you have only just commenced to walk in the way of life and salvation. You have just commenced in the career to obtain eternal life, which is that which you desire, therefore you have no time to spend only in that path. It is straight and narrow, simple and easy, and is an Almighty path, if you will keep in it. But if you wander off into swamps, or into brambles, and get into darkness, you will find it hard to get back.

Br. Cummings told you the truth, this morning, with regard to the sins of the people. And I will say that the time will come, and is now nigh at hand, when those who profess our faith, if they are guilty of what some of this people are guilty of, will find the ax laid at the root of the tree and they will be hewn down. What has been must be again, for the Lord is coming to restore all things. The time has been in Israel under the law of God, the celestial law, or that which pertains to the celestial law, for it is one of the laws of that kingdom where our Father dwells, that if a man was found guilty of adultery he must have his blood shed, and that is near at hand. But now I say, in the name of the Lord, that if this people will sin no more, but faithfully live their religion, their sins will be forgiven them without taking life.

You are aware that when Br. Cummings came to the point of loving our neighbors as ourselves, he could say yes or no, as the case might be; that is true. But I want to connect it with the doctrine you read in the Bible. When will we love our neighbor as ourselves? In the first place, Jesus said that no man hateth his own flesh. It is admitted by all that every person loves himself. Now if we do rightly love ourselves, we want to be saved and continue to exist, we want to go into the kingdom where we can enjoy eternity and see no more sorrow nor death. This is the desire of every person who believes in God. Now take a person in this congregation who has knowledge with regard to being saved in the kingdom of our God and our Father and being exalted, one who knows and understands the principles of eternal life and sees the beauty and excellency of the eternities before him compared with the vain and foolish things of the world, and suppose that he is overtaken in a gross fault; that he has committed a sin that he knows will deprive him of that exaltation which he desires and that he cannot attain to it without the shedding of his blood, and also knows that by having his blood shed he will atone for that sin and be saved and exalted with the Gods, is there a man or woman in this house but what would say, "shed my blood, that I may be saved and exalted with the Gods?"

All mankind love themselves, and let these principles be known by an individual, and he would be glad to have his blood shed. That would be loving themselves, even unto an eternal exaltation. Will you love your brothers or sisters likewise, when they have committed a sin that cannot be atoned for without the shedding of their blood? Will you love that man or woman well enough to shed their blood? That is what Jesus Christ meant. He never told a man or woman to love their enemies in their wickedness, never. He never intended any such thing; his language is left as it is for those to read who have the Spirit to discern between truth and error; it was so left for those who can discern the things of God. Jesus Christ never meant that we should love a wicked man in his wickedness.

Now take the wicked, and I can refer to where the Lord had to slay every soul of the Israelites that went out of Egypt, except Caleb and Joshua. He slew them by the hands of their enemies, by the plague, and by the sword, why? Because he loved them, and promised Abraham that he would save them. And he loved Abraham because he was a friend to his God and would stick to him in the hour of darkness, hence he promised Abraham that he would save his seed. And he could save them upon no other principle, for they had forfeited their right to the land of Canaan by transgressing the law of God, and they could not have atoned for the sin if they had lived. But if they were slain the Lord could bring them up in the resurrection and give them the land of Canaan, and he could not do it on any other principle.

I could refer you to plenty of instances where men have been righteously slain, in order to atone for their sins. I have seen scores and hundreds of people for whom there would have been a

chance in the last resurrection there will be, if their lives had been taken and their blood spilled on the ground as a smoking incense to the Almighty, but who are now angels to the devil until our elder brother, Jesus Christ, "uses them up—conquers death, hell and the grave. I have known a great many men who have left this church for whom there is no chance whatever for exaltation; but if their blood had been spilled it would have been better for them. The wickedness and ignorance of the nations forbid this principle's being in full force, but the time will come when the law of God will be in full force.

This is loving our neighbor as ourselves; if he needs help, help him; and if he wants salvation and it is necessary to spill his blood on the earth in order that he may be saved, spill it. Any of you who understand the principles of eternity, if you have sinned a sin requiring the shedding of blood, except the sin unto death, would not be satisfied nor rest until your blood should be spilled, that you might gain that salvation you desire. That is the way to love mankind.

Christ and Belial have not become friends; they have never shaken hands; they never have agreed to be brothers and to be on good terms; no, never; and they never will, because they are diametrically opposed to each other. If one conquers, the other is destroyed. One or the other of them must triumph and utterly destroy and cast down his opponent. Light and darkness cannot dwell together, and so it is with the kingdom of God.

Now, brethren and sisters, will you live your religion? How many hundreds of times have I asked you that question? Will the Latter Day Saints live their religion? I am ashamed to say anything about a reformation among Saints, but I am happy to think that the people called Latter Day Saints are striving now to obtain the Spirit of their calling and religion. They are just coming into the path, just waking up out of their sleep. It seems as though they are nearly all like babies; we are but children, in one sense. Now let us begin, like children, and walk in the straight and narrow path, live our religion and honor our God.

With these remarks, I pray the God of Israel to bless you forever and ever, for you are the best people on earth. I can say that I am happy that you are doing so well as you are. Continue to increase in all the graces of God's Spirit until the day of his coming, which I desire with all my heart, in the name of Jesus Christ: Amen.

## THE DESERET NEWS.



ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 18.

### Reynold's Miscellany and the Athenaeum—Reviewing some Anti-Mormon Publications.

To all lovers of truth it has often appeared strange that the world's publications should have so constantly teemed with wilfully FALSE or blindly IGNORANT statements concerning Joseph Smith, Brigham Young, and the Latter Day Saints as a body of people. But so accustomed have we become to such a course on their part, that we were completely surprised to see the Miscellany and Athenaeum pick up and plainly expose the fallacies of three anti-Mormon works, whose absurd contents are greedily swallowed by so many pious and professed Christians. But however plain it appears in those reviews that the spirit of man can discern the things of man, it also appears equally, or more, plain that the things of God are alone discerned by the Spirit of God. For after most effectually showing up the folly of those anti-Mormon writers through the testimony of their own books, the editors display the most pitiable ignorance in regard to the faith, laws, views, customs, habits, and objects of the Latter Day Saints. Such ignorance on their part concerning anything pertaining to time and sense—to this world and its worldly men and affairs—to worldly wealth, fame, pleasure, power, and advancement—would be a source of deep chagrin to their feelings; but when discovered towards the restoration in our day of the everlasting priesthood and gospel, the raising up of Prophets and Apostles, the organization of the true church in accordance with the pattern instituted by Christ himself while on the earth, it is so far from being a source of chagrin that it almost, if not quite, appears to be a matter of self-gratulation.

The 'Miscellany' asks, "Now, shall we of the Old World ever receive a report of the doings at Salt Lake City in which it will be reasonable to put our trust?" What a question to be asked by professedly knowing editors in professedly enlightened England in this boasting nineteenth century! One can almost fancy that they hear the scribes, pharisees, and saducees in ancient Jerusalem, those who were privileged with the society and personal teachings of the Savior and his disciples, enquiring whether they would ever 'receive a report,' as

to who those persons were, 'in which it would be reasonable to put their trust,' while at the same time Jesus and his Apostles were constantly proclaiming their true character and mission.

On the 6th of April, 1857, it will be twenty-seven years since the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints, and in that time the Book of Mormon has been printed and widely circulated in the English, French, German, Welsh, Danish, Italian and Hawaiian languages; thousands of Elders without purse or scrip have traversed rivers, seas, and many lands in the dissemination of our faith and doctrines; hundreds of thousands of letters, papers, pamphlets and other publications have been printed and scattered broadcast by the Saints, to the utmost of their means and opportunities; and yet a would-be-reputed-wise editor in far famed England asks, "Now, shall we of the Old World ever receive a report of the doings at Salt Lake City in which it will be reasonable to put our trust?" Dear Sir, it will be altogether your own fault if you do not, for in your own island there are many Elders from Great Salt Lake City who are able and more than willing to authentically furnish the required information, among whom are Orson Pratt, in Liverpool, and Ezra T. Benson of the Quorum of the Twelve Apostles. And in addition to those living teachers and thousands of others in your midst, you will find the Millennial Star and numerous 'Mormon' publications for sale at 42 Islington, Liverpool, and at 35 Jewin street, City, London; at which places you will also be able to procure the Deseret News, in which are printed the history of Joseph Smith, the public teachings of Pres. Brigham Young and his Counselors, of the Twelve and others, and such items as are deemed useful and interesting in Utah. You can then sit in your easy chair and scan the much belied population in far off Utah, having a report thereof in which it will be reasonable to put your trust.

Mr. 'Miscellany,' were such an accessible and vast array of correct information at your command upon worldly topics, and were you with all those attainable advantages to write about the Queen of England and Prince Albert, about the leaders in parliament, the men and affairs of the city of London, trade, politics, &c., with so little apparent knowledge as you have about the 'Mormons' and 'Mormon life,' how long think you could you sustain position as an intelligent journalist? Who has taught you that "These extraordinary people have made for themselves a new scheme of life, based on new ideas?" Our 'scheme of life' is at least as old as the days of Adam, is the one revealed by the Almighty for the observance of all his children who desire to attain celestial glory, and is based upon eternal principles as understood in the councils of heaven and made known to man for his guidance.

It may be urged that this is interested testimony; so also is that of Moses in his five books in King James' translation of the Bible, and so is that of all the Prophets and Apostles as printed in that translation. They were all interested in the accounts which they gave centuries and thousands of years ago, which accounts have come to our hands through a very questionable channel. But in our time the Lord has again revealed and is revealing his will, and our testimony is corroborated by hosts of living witnesses, thus proving that the God whom we are striving to worship 'is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever,' that his arm is not shortened, that his ear is not deaf, and that he 'is no respecter of persons.' But how prone are mankind to garnish the sepulchres of the Prophets, while at the same time they oppress, vilify, persecute, and kill those whom the Lord is sending to teach them the way of eternal truth! This invariable practice demonstrates how much easier it is, while reading the Bible, to venerate ancient worthies and fancy our obedience had we lived in their days, than it is to actually receive the testimony and teachings of the servants of God living in our midst and follow their counsels and example.

With the light they restrict themselves to, the Miscellany and Athenaeum have handled three scurrilous anti-Mormon works very candidly and truthfully, much more so than is usual; and the Miscellany has gone so far as to "want to know how this system works," and the Athenaeum positively declares that "idleness is not a 'Mormon' vice." How can a system work otherwise than well, when it is actually founded upon scripture faith, repentance of sin and fruits meet for such repentance, baptism for the remission of sins, and the laying on of hands, by those holding the everlasting

priesthood, for the gift of the Holy Ghost? And without faithfully walking in this channel, how can any one expect to possess saving knowledge of the plan of salvation? The Lord and his servants say, "this is the way, walk ye in it," while the arch apostate is leading his votaries in numerous by and devious paths, it mattering but little with him how slightly they vary from the true. The truth is extensively printed, the truth is widely proclaimed among the nations by faithful Elders, and yet how few are found who will hear and persistently cleave to it. The very fact that Joseph the Prophet was in his youth poor as to this world's goods and unlearned in worldly science, though in literal fulfillment of prophecy, is wrested by the devil into an argument against his divine mission and authority, and is to this day a stumbling block to the world who think they know so much and are so learned, when they are in reality 'blind and poor and naked and ignorant.'

When reflecting upon the thick veil that is over the earth, the dark follies and the vanities that wholly engage the minds of the vast majority of accountable beings, the disregard of correct testimony, teaching and example, we are tempted at times, in human weakness, to leave each one to unmeasledly and unwarnedly pursue his own course. But this will never answer, since, aside from obvious duty, there are many good, honorable, law-abiding, truth-seeking people scattered abroad upon the earth, and unto whom the principles of life must be taught. Were it not so the Athenaeum would not have made the following statement, "Such leaders (Joseph Smith and Brigham Young) and such a people require to be grappled with in a different spirit to what is brought to bear upon them in all the books we have yet seen about them—the compendious terms 'dupes and imposters' do not cover the facts." Truly they do not; and glad are we to see here and there even a few waking up to the facts couched in the great issue now being joined on this earth, for this issue as it proceeds will try the integrity of men to the utmost and will end in utterly sweeping away not only the refuge of lies and abominations, but all who take shelter in that refuge.

**SANDWICH ISLANDS.**—Pres. Silas Smith writes from Honolulu, under date Dec. 6, that he had lately visited all the branches on the Island of Maui, and found them in a better condition than he had anticipated. The Elders were generally in the enjoyment of good health, and were untiring in their efforts for the salvation of the people.

Drouth still continued severe, and in some places many were suffering through lack of food.

The volcano on Hawaii had ceased its eruptions.

**THE WESTERN STANDARD.**—Persons wishing to subscribe for Vol. 2 of the "Western Standard" should make early application to S. W. RICHARDS, Agent for this City. Subscribers for Vol. 1, will be furnished with Vol. 2, unless they give immediate notice to discontinue at the close of the year.

**THE ELECTION.**—A more warmly contested city election has never been known in New York than that of the fourth of November, 1856. Without doubt it will be remembered as having been attended with more bribery, fraud, corruption, and illegality in every form than was known at any previous time. Riot run loose—the police were inefficient, apparently designedly so. Crowds of shoulder hitters, bullies, and prize fighters surrounded ballot boxes, preventing any from approaching but those of the "right sort," those in whom they could see a want of all moral principles.

Boxes for the distribution of tickets were knocked down and the tickets destroyed—the police standing by inactive. In some of the districts thousands of respectable citizens desirous of voting were by force prevented. Others, who succeeded in spite of danger to life and limb, returned from the ballot boxes with hats knocked away and garments tattered. When the elective franchise is thus secured to us, and party victory is achieved by such means, who can doubt corruption will be found in high places, and men better fitted for ignoble, ignominious positions, will be raised to offices of trust and power? When will the good time come?—[Life Illustrated.]

How different is the conduct at elections in Utah, where they invariably pass off peacefully and with harmonious unanimity. In the matter of elections, at least, all must admit that the 'barbarians of Utah' are far in advance of the abominations practiced by the enlightened and refined Christians of the United States.—[Ed. News.]

**DON'T TELL EVERYTHING.**—The liar is the greatest fool; but the next greatest fool is he who tells all he knows. A prudent reticence is the highest practical wisdom. Silence has made more fortunes than the most gifted eloquence.