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## THE ONLY WAY.

"The Deseret Evening News of Salt Lake in its editorial columns publishes articles claiming that the Mormon Church is the only 'true' religion."

We find the foregoing in a paper that circulates extensively in the Northwest. Wonderful isn't it? We were under the impression that everybody at all acquainted with religious movements in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, was fully aware that this claim has been set forth from the very beginning of the establishment of that which is called the "Mormon" Church. Any religious organization which does not make a similar claim is, to say the least, inconsistent. If it does not assert its superiority to other religious establishments, it proclaims at once its non-necessity and raises the question of the reason for its existence.

When the Prophet Joseph Smith was first favored with a communication from the heavens, in the appearance to him of the Father and the Son, he was told, in response to his earnest inquiry as to which of the religious denominations he should join, that he was to go after none of them, for they had all gone out of the way, and were "teaching for doctrine the commandments of men." The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was organized and set up for the introduction, that is, the restoration, of the pure Gospel without the interpolations and vagaries of men by which mankind had been led astray for centuries. Every doctrine, principle, ordinance, ceremony, ordination and commandment in this Church has been received by communication from heaven, by revelation, inspiration, and the power of the Holy Ghost. This is its great distinction from all other religious societies extant.

This claim is the secret cause of the intense hostility towards it exhibited by the religious ministers of the age. They resent it bitterly. They take it as a reflection, not only upon their teachings but upon their pretense of authority. It is true that none of them, with the exception of the dignitaries of the church that claims direct succession from the original Apostles, professes more than mental impressions and intuitions to themselves or others, as the source of their "call" to the ministry. In fact, the cessation of direct communication from God to man is recognized and made a tenet of faith throughout modern Christendom. The denial, therefore, of any actual authority from Deity to them, ought not to arouse in them the anger which they manifest, and certainly does not justify the hostile measures which they take towards a Church which asserts that divine authority has been given to it by present revelation. They may take issue with this assertion and seek to controvert it, by proper means, which do not include physical force, misrepresentation or endeavors to injure those who entertain it.

The so-called "Mormon" Church takes the ground that it has the only true religion, in the sense that it is of direct divine origin. It was set up by Jesus Christ, the founder of the primitive Christian faith. He declared when on earth that all other systems but His were wrong and His only was the way, the truth and the life. He has made the same declaration concerning His Church in the latter days, which is the former Church restored in every particular. There is no other rational position that it can take. No matter how much it may offend those who do not agree with it or admit its claims, it must be that or nothing more than another sect added to the mass of heterogeneous, conflicting religious faiths.

It should be understood that in taking this position the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints does not deny or seek to belittle the good that has been done by devotional and sincere workers in the religious cause during the past centuries. No matter what particular church or society they may have been connected with, whatever of truth they have presented, or effort they have made for the uplifting of humanity, for the promotion of faith in God, for the prevalence of morality, for the cultivation of that which brings peace, kindness, brotherly love and charity, which dispenses the clouds of superstition, infidelity, and skepticism, and that aids in the suppression of strife, selfishness, war and savagery, we commend them for and bid them Godspeed in their good works.

We believe that all truth and every good thing comes from our Eternal Father, and we know that it harmonizes with that which we have received from Him. But He has Himself revealed His word and His will in these last days, and committed a dispensation to His servants, upon whom He has placed authority to proclaim His truth and administer in the ordinances of His house, declaring that what they perform in the way He has appointed shall be owned and recognized of Him, and that what they seal on earth shall be sealed in heaven, and what they loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven. In

this sense, then, the "Mormon" Church is veritably the only true religion and as such it has been presented to the world for more than seventy years.

There is some religious truth in every sect under the sun. There are good people in all the various churches, as there are outside of churches, in Heathendom as well as in Christendom. They are all the children of our Father. He will judge them according to their light and their works. He will give them His Spirit according to their faith and their sincerity. He will accept the good they do, but reject the evil. And he will not acknowledge anything that is done in His name unless He has Himself bestowed authority to perform it. The ordinances administered without that authority are void and of non-effect.

"Mormonism," so called, is God's truth. The "Mormon" Church is God's institution. It was established by Him and He will sustain it. The principles for which it stands are divine, and that is why they will prevail. This Church has had to maintain a position of defense from the beginning. It has been assailed from all quarters, and with all kinds of weapons, but it will conquer and overcome all opposition by the power of truth and the strength of the Almighty. But it has no fight against anything that is good, true, progressive, enlightening and saving, whether in temporal or intellectual or spiritual things. It is for the welfare of humanity at large and seeks the salvation of the living and the dead, of all races, ages, beliefs and nationalities. It ignores nothing that is good; it wants nothing that is evil. It is the champion of right, and it will conquer and overcome as sure as that truth will triumph over error and light will disperse the darkness.

## STRAIGHT OR STRAIT?

"Christ's sermon on the mount at Jerusalem—'Strait is the gate and narrow the way.' The same sermon on this continent to the Nephites—'Straight is the gate,' etc. It is written straight in the Book of Mormon. Should not the word strait be written the same in both books? If not, why not?"

Please say something about it in the Semi-Weekly News.

The foregoing letter received at this office is but a repetition of others that have come to us on the same subject. There is nothing in it of very great importance, but we notice it so that needless controversy over it may be discontinued. The answer to the question is, that both words may be used synonymously. The word "strait" means narrow, close, tight, direct and therefore straight. Technically the term strait might properly be printed in both instances, but reference to the best dictionaries will show that the words may be used interchangeably. The idea evidently intended to be conveyed was that the way to eternal life is both narrow and direct, turning neither to the right nor to the left, and avoiding the broad road which leads to destruction. We remind our correspondent and others similarly worried, of another saying of the Master's about "straining at a gnat and swallowing a camel."

## ONE FORM OF TYRANNY.

Among the many extreme measures that are being taken by organized labor societies, is a recent demand from the United Association of Journeymen Plumbers and Gasfitters of the United States and Canada, which is engaged in a conflict with the New York branch of that body, because it does not agree with some stringent conditions proposed by the general organization. As a means of forcing the local society into the terms required, the leaders of the association called for a strike in the building trades on which the members of the local society depend for their work, unless the latter would promptly yield to the orders of the bosses of the association. A New York paper, commenting on this oppressive method of procedure, remarks: "As a natural-born tyrant the labor leader is hard to beat, but the led seen to be slow in finding it out." We agree with the sentiment, but we hope that the masses of the working people of this country will open their eyes to the fact that oppression should be resisted wherever it is exercised by force, and that the tyranny of labor-leaders is no less slavery than that which they are called upon to resist in the form of capital. Liberty is sweet and bondage is cruel in whatever form it is inflicted.

## AFFAIRS IN MEXICO.

The election of that great and good man and wise ruler, Porfirio Diaz, to the position of President of the Mexican Republic for another term of six years, is a mark of the confidence reposed in him by the people of that country and of their good sense in retaining in office so worthy and remarkable a public official. The notion that one who has served his country for a long time necessarily is ousted to make way for some untried and inexperienced aspirant, we hope will some day be driven out of the minds of men, before the force of good common sense and the light of experience.

The question is frequently asked, what will be done if the great Mexican President should die? We notice that a change has been made in the constitution of that country which now provides for a vice-president. That is a new feature in its economy. The new official is Vice-President Raymon Corral, and he has been chosen through the direct influence of President Diaz, so that in the absence of the president the country may be considered to be in good hands. There is some talk of the president's extended travel abroad, and during that time the presence of a competent head to the republic seems imperative.

Mexico has rapidly advanced under the leadership of the astute, kind-hearted and capable man whom the people wisely retain in his position. It is to be hoped that he will long be spared to occupy that high station, and that he will continue to be thus esteemed by the people whom he has served so long and so faithfully.

## NEEDLESS SLAUGHTER.

Readers of foreign news and particularly persons who pay close attention to sporting affairs, have heard of Lady Florence Dixie, who has figured prominently in arctic circles and is famous for her exploits with the rifle and in the chase. She is a crack shot and a splendid horse-woman, and her feats of riding and marksmanship have been frequently the subject of great praise in the newspapers. It appears, however, that the heart of the woman has triumphed over the aim of the hunter, and the lady has recently expressed feelings and views which may be commended to right-thinking people everywhere. Here is a paragraph in an article from her pen:

"I have seen the terror-stricken orb of the red deer, dark, full of tears, glaring at me with mute reproach, as it sobbed its life away, and the same look have I seen in glorious-orbed guanaco of Patagonia, the timid gazelle, the graceful and beautiful koodoo, springbok, etc., of South Africa, seemingly, as it were, reproaching me for thus lightly taking the life I could never bring back. So, too, I have witnessed the angry, defiant glare of the wild beast's fading light, as death, fastcoming, deprived him of the power to wreak his vengeance on the human aggressor before him. And I say this: The memory of those scenes brings no pleasure to my mind. On the contrary, it haunts me with a huge reproach, and I wish I had never done those deeds of skill and cruelty. I will never again raise gun or rifle to destroy the glorious animal life of creation. Savagedom still dominates us in a great degree. A higher education and civilization will teach us to despise amusements which are purchased at the expense of suffering to animals."

The disposition to kill seems inherent in mankind. It is true that the Great Creator has placed under the dominion of man and women all forms of animal life. They are for the use and benefit of the lords of creation whether on earth, in the air or in the sea. But we do not believe that it is the design and purpose of the Organizer of the universe, whose wondrous works are displayed in every department of nature, that indiscriminate slaughter should go on, but rather that the birds, the beasts and the fishes may be at the disposal of human beings when they are needed for food or other necessary or useful purposes. In a revelation given in March, 1831 it is said:

"And whoso forbiddeth to abstain from meats, that man should not eat the same, is not ordained of God; for behold, the beasts of the field and the fowls of the air, and that which cometh of the earth is ordained for the use of man for food and raiment, and that he might have in abundance; . . . and we be unto man that sheddeth blood or that wasteth flesh and hath no need." Doc. and Cov. p. 197.

We think this quotation should have weight upon the minds of men and women who believe in the principles that have been communicated from on high for their guidance in these latter times. And we are of opinion that the conclusion that has been reached by Lady Florence Dixie will commend itself to cultured and truly civilized people everywhere.

Cobbling streets is not repairing streets.

A "beef" has been made of the settlement of the butchers' strike.

These must be the dog days, they are so dogged hot.

They are living the strenuous life at Bonesteel all right enough.

England has made it plain to Russia that "Britannia rules the waves."

The St. Louis fair would have fared better had the railroad fares been less.

Diplomacy and bluff have their victories no less renowned than those of war.

In Mr. Bryan's proposed reform "mailed fist" seems to have given way planks.

What a voracious appetite those Guatemalan ants have! It must be because they are foreigners.

Cattle, hogs and sheep, owing to the renewal of the butchers' strike, have got another lease of life.

In the Prinz Heinrich case the "mailed fist" seems to have given way to the fine Italian hand.

In the matter of capturing neutral vessels the volunteer fleet is doing a genuine Russian business.

A French dancing master could not have got out of an awkward position more gracefully than Russia did.

If Mrs. Maybrick wanted to breathe the air of freedom, why didn't she come to America instead of going to France?

The next British vessel coming from India will be able to cross the Red sea dry shod, so far as Russia is concerned.

The Russians are not officially "advised" of the fact that the Japanese have captured Kiao Tung, but they are aware of it all the same.

The captain of the St. Petersburg says that the captain of the Malacca

refused to show his manifest when called on to do so. It is manifest that something was wrong somewhere.

Swallow and Carroll, these are the names of the Prohibitionists candidates for President and Vice President. And they are in the logical sequence, for the carol always comes after the swallow.

A nation, like an individual, gets its share of business through its own efforts, and nothing more. Nor is it, any more than the individual, entitled to anything more. To talk about a nation's or an individual's "share" of any trade, except what is got, is rather childish.

General Davis, governor general of the Panama canal strip, has advised the Panama canal commission that he wants 100,000 yards of wire gauze to prevent mosquito invasion of the zone. This seems to be a modified adaptation of the Spanish use of barbed wire to keep out rebels.

Colombia is going to resume full diplomatic relations with the United States, the Panama incident being regarded as closed. It is the wise thing to do, as for her to stay mad and refuse to have anything to do with the United States would have been to be constantly in an impotent rage.

The Salt Lake Stake authorities have arranged for a grand celebration of Pioneer day, with parade, speeches, music, games, picnic and all the etceteras at Liberty Park, on Monday, July 25. All pioneers able to go will be conveyed to the park, and a splendid time is anticipated. The second ward folks have also arranged for a celebration, and will doubtless join in with the others. Anyhow, Liberty Park will be the scene of a joyful commemoration of the notable day.

## BACK FROM THE FAIR.

Oh, long ago  
'Twas Westward Ho!  
When prairie schooners traced  
The trackless way  
To Santa Fe  
And unknown dangers faced.  
Then we could read  
A scrawling scud  
On canvas dark with dust.  
In letters dim  
This legend grim:  
"We'll see Pike's Peak or bust."

But now today  
Another way  
The tide of travel turns,  
And one who stays  
At home these days  
A never lesson learns;  
Returning hosts  
Forget their boasts,  
But strangely still alike  
From weary souls  
This burden rolls:  
"Busted—but saw the Pike."  
—Life.

## The Gift of Growling.

"Yes, sir," said the ancient philosopher, "I have come to the conclusion that growling is a gift an' a necessity with some folks, who jest can't get along without it! Why, I knowed a man who had the rheumatism seven year or better, an' when it left him he jest didn't know what to do with himself. Set round an' moped all day, like he's lost the last friend he had in the world; an' one day, when he wuz growlin' more'n usual, somebody said: 'Ole man, what air your a-stormin' round' so fer?"

"Consarn it!" he says, 'I've done lost my crutches an' my rheumatism!"  
—Atlanta Constitution.

## A Rocky Road to Travel.

The increasing severity of the war is shown by the names of the stations along the line of march. Gen. Sakharoff reports having been compelled to retire from Makhuntsguig to Tchoutzian-indza, and it is feared that a little more hard driving will wreck the alphabet.

## Practice and Preaching.

"There!" exclaimed Rev. Mr. Gasaway as he finished writing a sermon. "I flatter myself that very few preachers could beat that bit of eloquence."  
"What's your text, dear?" asked his wife.  
"Let nothing be done through vainglory,"—Philadelphia Press.

## The Sermon's Effect.

I certainly did enjoy your sermon," said the hard case, who seldom attended church.  
"Indeed?" replied Rev. Mr. Tawker, "and what part did you enjoy the most?"  
"I guess it was the part where I dreamed I had \$1,000,000."—Philadelphia Ledger.

## Tommy.

Papa—How did you get your clothes so terribly torn?  
Tommy—Tryin' to keep a little boy from bein' licked.  
Papa—Ah, a brave deed! Who was the little boy?  
Tommy—Me.—Chicago Daily News.

## Tender Affection.

"Is it true that you threw something at Mike that caused that swelling over his eye?" asked the judge of a little Irish woman. "Yes, I did," said the little woman, catching her breath, "but I niver mint to hurt him, and he knows it well. We'd just come home from me cousin's wedding, an' I was feeling kind of soft to Mike, and I axed him if he loved me as much as he did the day we was married, and—and he was so slow answering me that I up wid the mop an' flung it at him. Squire Benson, for, if we poor women don't have love, our hearts just breaks inside of us!"

## KEEP COOL!

Light Summer Knitted Garments	75c	Light Summer Balbriggan Shirts or Drawers for Men	20c
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