

A VIGOROUS REPLY TO AN ASSAILANT OF "MORMONISM."

The *Daily Commercial* published in Chattanooga, Tennessee, in its issue of the 19th inst., published a lengthy article signed G. C. C., in which the author without one sentence of scripture or paragraph of logic assailed and denounced "Mormonism" and the "Mormons." He claimed that the faith and practice of the Latter-day Saints constituted a great evil, to arrest the progress of which something ought to be done immediately. Just what this something ought to be he acknowledges that he does not know, but he seems to have a vague idea that freethinkers are the only ones who can do it as he intimates in the following paragraph:

"There is a host of disseminators of this infamy called Mormonism coming to seduce the youth and the credulous of our Sunny South. What can we do? I don't know. Christianity can't do anything, for what proves it proves Mormonism. Free thought alone can stem the torrent. Will the freethinkers undertake the task of disseminating an antidote for the poison these elders are injecting into the minds and consciences of our people? No, free thought is not organized, and so the flood gates are thrown wide open to this moral leprosy."

Two days after the publication of the letter referred to, one of the Elders now laboring in Tennessee replied as follows:

The columns of Monday's *Commercial* contained an article over the signature of G. C. C. upon the much vexed question of Mormonism, in which statements are made that are calculated to do injury to a much abused and universally misunderstood people.

Permit me in all kindness and with the very best of feeling toward the writer, to place some of these matters in their proper light, and in part, at least, correct the erroneous impressions liable to be made.

First—Let me say that I appreciate to its fullest extent the kindly spirit manifested and the evident wish to see fair play, giving to all the privilege of freedom of worship and of conscience—a boon of most inestimable worth, and one that Mormon people, through the experience of half a century, in being traduced and vilified, whipped, scourged and driven, robbed, plundered, imprisoned and slain, have learned to place an almost priceless value upon.

Stern experience has taught us the lesson that man is very prone to try to force and compel the human mind to accept the popular view of a question, or one that has been rendered respectable through age and tradition.

I will overlook the covert sneer contained in the idea of holding one up as the "overseer" of the Southern Mission, and simply ask, Would the writer as readily apply the same term to the presiding elder or bishop of any other denomination?

Is there anything particularly startling in the assertion that our Elders are meeting with

SOME SUCCESS IN THE SOUTH,

as they are also doing in almost every other part of the habitable globe? Did G. C. C. imagine because a few of our brethren and a few innocent and defenseless women have been incarcerated in a loathsome dungeon by a brutal judge, through the action of an unconstitutional law, that Mormonism was dead? If so, he has read history to little advantage.

Crowned heroes and heroines they are, in our estimation, whose names shall be taught to our children as the very personification of liberty itself.

Some consolation is sought to be afforded in the idea that those we convert can be spared, and that their neighbors are gladly rid of them; if this be so, why all this fuss? Why not aid us in our endeavor to rid the community of such an objectionable class of citizens?

This comfort is based upon two charges,

IGNORANCE AND LUST.

For argument sake let us admit the ignorance, and take it for granted that all Mormon converts come under the same general head, and are equally ignorant when they emigrate.

Now for results. The educational statistics of the tenth census contain the following figures:

The number of persons to the hundred, in the Territory of Utah, who cannot read, ten years old and over, is not quite 3½ per cent., while the number in the State of Tennessee is 18 per cent. Mind you this does not include the colored population but the whites alone. If our converts are so ignorant at the time of conversion, by what process is this marvelous change wrought? Why, our percentage of illiteracy is as low as it is in Massachusetts, and much lower than in many of the leading States of the Union. If we can take these ignorant people and educate them up to the best standard to be found in the United States, are not we doing them good service?

That G. C. C. is mistaken, I know by personal experience, and know that very rarely any one joins the church who cannot read and write. They are not the kid-gloved, paper-collared,

patent leather-booted dudes that are getting to be so common, but one of them, in opening up a country, or laying the foundations of a great movement, is worth an even cord of the others.

Now as to lust. Imagine a man leaving Chattanooga passing through Cincinnati, St. Louis and Kansas City, and going to some of the rural districts of Utah for the purpose of seeking an opportunity to gratify the baser passions of his fallen nature! With all the opportunities presented in every great center of Christianity, to make this long journey, with its fatigues and losses, is only rivaled by the story of Thomson's fool colt.

No more virtuous people dwell on the footstool of the Father than the Mormon people. Statistics attest it, facts prove it, and our bitterest enemies, who know us, acknowledge it.

G. C. C. proposes not to denounce us or call us ugly names, but to quote the record, and then goes from firstly to fifthly.

Let us examine the record. He calls

THE BOOK OF MORMON

a delusion, and Joseph Smith an immoral crank. What is this but denunciation and ugly names? The froth of mere assertion. Where did he get his information? I have carefully read and examined the book in question, and utterly fail to find either fraud or stupidity in it, but have been led to observe very much of the latter, in ignorant comments on it. As to Joseph Smith, I am at the defiance of the world to prove him either immoral or a crank. Bring on your proof or don't make charges. He next attacks polygamy, and leaves me in doubt as to whether he is ignorant of the law, of the great free State of Tennessee, that forbids me to answer him, and makes it a penal offense to do so, or whether, knowing that my hands are tied behind me, he hits me, on the principle that he has me where I can do him no injury. If he is ignorant of the law, a little charity exercised toward other equally unfortunate people would be very becoming, but if informed of the law I have no comments to make.

In paragraph three he asserts that we teach that Joseph Smith is a God. I have lived with the Mormon people for eighteen years and have never heard any such doctrine taught, am led to believe that it is only a part of the mass of stuff poured into the ears of credulous travelers by professional hackmen, who drive tourists about Salt Lake City and laugh at the gullibility of the ordinary mortal sightseeing among the Mormons. As to the fourth accusation, what there can be so awful in the fact that we delight

IN A NUMEROUS OFFSPRING

and love our wives so well that we desire their society and companionship in the world to come, as well as this, is passing strange, and these children that are "an heritage from the Lord," and the law "that the man is not without the woman in the Lord, nor the woman without the man," has a meaning to the Latter-day Saints.

The fifth accusation is so comically absurd that if it were not for the seriousness with which it is presented one would almost conclude that it was the joke of an end man in some very ordinary minstrel show. The idea that the white cloth laid on the face of the dead wife must be lifted by the husband before she can see God! This is so near sacrilege that I hesitate to comment on it. Suffice it to say that no such doctrine is taught or believed among the Mormon people, and I must confess, to no little chagrin and mortification, that my friend should have allowed such nonsense to creep into his article. Let us change the subject. It is pitiable to get down to this.

Relative to free speech. We open our church doors to all denominations, or those of no denomination, and we have had Methodists, Baptists, Catholics, Infidels, Pagans, and a great variety of all classes speak from our public rostrum, and if G. C. C. has a man that he thinks can show us the error of our ways, Christian or Infidel, Deist or Atheist, Jew or Pagan, I will guarantee him the use of the Tabernacle at Salt Lake, and in addition to that, the use of four hundred other church buildings with a seating capacity of from 300 to 3,000, and good treatment while he sojourns with us. No danger of mobs or mob violence; not even traduced nor vilified, but treated as sensible, intelligent people should treat each other. Now, come on with your strong reasons, and show us the error of our ways.

Let me say, in conclusion, that if one of our Elders can be found who has despoiled woman of her virtue, we will willingly turn him over to the mercies of the law, as being sunk so low in the scale of human existence as to be unworthy the fellowship of a true Latter-day Saint. He can have no sympathy from us, for to him there is no forgiveness in this world nor in the world to come. Out of 350 Elders, who in the past ten years have labored in the south, but one has fallen by the way. Having broken his vows and covenants of chastity, made in holy places, he to-day reaps the reward of his sin in being a vagabond and wanderer on the face of the earth, forsaken by his family, excluded from the church, with its doors immovably closed against him, and the seal of a common condemnation from all Israel resting upon him.

The genius and spirit of the religious faith of the Latter-day Saints tends to purity of morals, liberty of conscience and freedom of thought, all of which the world will yet acknowledge.

BY TELEGRAPH.

PER WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.

AMERICAN.

NEWARK, N. J., 29.—General George B. McClellan, ex-Commander of the Army of the United States, died suddenly this morning at ten minutes past three from exhaustion produced by repeated shocks of neuralgia of the heart, at his home on Orange Mountain. Though he had nearly completed his 59th year, he had preserved not only the buoyant spirits, but a buoyant youthful agility. Therefore, when he began about three weeks ago to feel pains at his heart, neither he nor his medical man Dr. Seward, of Orange, nor any of his family regarded the matter seriously. He and every one else believed yesterday that the troublesome malady was either gone for good, or at least for a long time. In that belief the General ordered his carriage yesterday morning, drove to Orange accompanied by his only daughter, saw several gentlemen on business and made an appointment with one of them for 11 o'clock to-day. He returned home in excellent spirits, ate heartily at his meal hours and retired to rest. About 11 o'clock the pains returned, and a messenger on horseback was dispatched down the hill for the doctor, who came back with the least possible delay. When he entered the bedroom of the General he found the patient in extreme agony.

The paroxysms returned with a rhythmic frequency that was alarming, and the homeopathic remedies, which the skill of the doctor suggested, were no more efficient than those which had been supplied by the intelligent affection of General McClellan's wife and daughter, who had ministered to him from the first alarm. For four hours he suffered the most excruciating agony. About 3 o'clock there was a change, the eyes of the patient began to grow brighter and his face, that had been white with pain, began to recover its usual ruddy hue. He gave a long, deep sigh of relief, smiled faintly and said: "I feel easy now, thank God I have pulled through." Then he sank upon the pillow as if exhausted, closing his eyes. The doctor who was watching his face with extreme solicitude, saw the unerring signs of approaching collapse, and whispered to Mrs. McClellan: "I fear he is dying." It was but too true. General McClellan raised himself up on one hand, half opened his eyes, and fell back dead.

The following general order was issued this afternoon:

WAR DEPARTMENT,

Washington, October 29.

With profound regret the Secretary of War announces to the army the death of General George B. McClellan, formerly Major-General commanding the army of the United States, which occurred at Orange, N. J., this morning. The name and fame of this distinguished soldier and citizen is known and honored throughout the Republic as the organizer of the Army of the Potomac. He made it capable of accomplishing great deeds. The lessons he gave it were never forgotten, and the spirit with which he animated it continued through all its eventful history. Subsequently, as its leader, he rendered great services to his country. His pure and noble character, his unselfish devotion, and the duty he performed in the hour of peril will cause his memory ever to be cherished with pride by the people of the United States. (Signed)

WM. C. ENDICOTT,

Secretary of War.

It is definitely learned to-day that General McClellan came very near being made a member of President Cleveland's Cabinet; that he was tendered the Russian mission and declined it because of business engagements, and that within the past twenty-four hours the President had concluded to offer him the appointment of member of the Civil Service Commission.

Though no definite arrangements in regard to the funeral of General McClellan have been made, it is probable the services will be held in the Madison Square Presbyterian Church on Monday, and the interment will be at Trenton. The family have been deluged with messages from all parts of the country and from Europe.

General Fitz John Porter says, though General McClellan's personal recollections were burned, he succeeded in reproducing most of them and that they will be published soon, and that they will create a stir equal to that caused by the publication of Depew's letter on the Grant-Johnson matter.

The following executive order was published to-day:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,

Washington, Oct. 29.

The death of George B. McClellan, at one time Major-General commanding the armies of the United States, took place at an early hour this morning. As a mark of respect to the memory of the distinguished soldier and citizen, whose military ability and civic virtues have shed lustre upon the history of his country, it is ordered by the President that the National flag be displayed at half-mast upon all the buildings of the Executive Department in this city until after his funeral shall have taken place. (Signed) DANIEL S. LAMONT,

Private Secretary.

NEW HAVEN, 29.—Dr. Noah Porter, for the past thirteen years president of Yale College, handed in his resignation

at a meeting of the corporation this afternoon, to take effect from the next commencement. No cause given.

PORTLAND, Ogn., 29.—A Victoria, B. C., dispatch says: This evening an English gentleman named Hicks was shot down and mortally wounded in front of his own door, in the suburbs, by two highwaymen, and robbed of \$1,800 in money, a diamond pin and a watch and ring. The victim married here two weeks ago, and was preparing to leave for England to-morrow with his bride.

NEW YORK, 29.—Because I believed New York was his preference.

It is nearer the residence I hope to occupy as long as I live, and where I will be able to visit his resting place often.

I have believed and am now convinced that the tomb will be visited by as many of his countrymen here as it would in any other place, and

The offer of a park in New York was the first which observed, and that unreservedly, the only condition imposed by General Grant himself—namely, that I should have a place by his side.

ST. LOUIS, 29.—H. K. Pinckney, charged with aiding the Arkansas Valley Land and Cattle Co., an English organization, to defraud the Government out of the larger part of 66,000 acres of the public domain in Bent County, Colorado, was arrested in St. Louis this afternoon. He will be taken back to Colorado. Pinckney was formerly clerk in the Pueblo Land Office, and he and R. C. Bloomfield, manager of the cattle company, were charged with fraudulently conspiring to acquire the land. Bloomfield was convicted, and is now serving out his sentence, but Pinckney forfeited his bond and fled.

WICHITA, Kansas, 29.—The *Daily Eagle* is in possession of information to the effect that the "boomers" have again made a movement at Oklahoma. For several days past numbers have been going with teams and provisions. Such as had reached the Oklahoma district up to the date of the latest advice, found a number of cattlemen with their herds in peaceful possession, but all seemed harmonious as between the herders and boomers, with no prospect of trouble. From 50 to 60 wagon loads of boomers were daily arriving upon the ground.

RICHMOND, 30.—Heavy rains during the past 24 hours have caused the greatest flood known in the past five years on the western end of the Richmond and Allegheny Railroad. The trestle at South River was washed away and a mixed train on the Allegheny road wrecked. The engineer and firemen are missing and believed killed. All the passengers are safe. The Shenandoah Valley train is in trouble about the same point. No particulars obtainable.

NEW YORK, 30.—It has been definitely arranged that the funeral of General McClellan will take place at 10 o'clock Monday morning next, from the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church. In accordance with the request of Mrs. McClellan, there will be no military demonstrations, although all veterans who served under the General have been invited to the funeral. Rev. Dr. Parker will conduct the simple services of the dead, and no eulogy will be pronounced. The pall-bearers thus far selected are General W. S. Hancock, General Joseph E. Johnston, General Martin T. McMahon, General Fitz-John Porter, General W. B. Franklin, Hon. H. C. Kelsey, and Col. E. H. Wright, of Newark. The interment will take place in the family plot at Trenton on the same day.

Mrs. McClellan has received telegraphic messages of condolence from Gen. Joseph E. Johnston, Governor Pattison, of Pennsylvania; W. W. Story, the sculptor of Rome; the Marquis de Torrigiani, of Italy, and many other distinguished people.

General Shaler placed the first division of National Guards at the service of General McMahon to act as a military escort, but the offer, in compliance with Mrs. McClellan's wish, was declined with many thanks. Gen. McMahon came to this city from Orange to-day, and will return to the McClellan residence this afternoon to make further arrangements. The Army of the Potomac will send representatives to the funeral.

Nearly 100 dispatches and other messages of condolence arrived to-day. The Comte de Paris sent by cable the following: "Receive the expression of the deepest sympathy of his late Aide for the widow and family of his beloved General. He mourns not only the best of chiefs, but also the best of friends."

Telegrams were also received from Samuel J. Tilden, General W. S. Hancock, General J. R. McPherson, Rev. Dr. John Hall, General Alexander S. Webb, General Joseph E. Johnston, M. Rouster, Minister of France at Washington, and the Marquis Di Torregiani, Mrs. McClellan's brother-in-law.

RICHMOND, 30.—A heavy rain during the past twenty-four hours has caused the greatest flood known in the past five years on the western end of the Richmond & Allegheny railroad. The trestle at South River was washed away and a mixed train on the Allegheny was wrecked. The engineer and fireman are missing and are believed to have been killed. All the passengers are safe. The Shenandoah Valley train is in trouble about the same point. No particulars obtainable.

The high waters from above have reached Richmond, and to-night the wharves in the lower part of the city are submerged. No serious damage is anticipated, however, as reports from points above Columbia show that the water is falling. Everything along the

river front has been removed beyond the danger line. The Rappahannock river is also reported greatly swollen and \$10,000 damage is done at Fredericksburg. Some damage is also reported on the Chesapeake & Ohio railroad.

ST. LOUIS, 30.—The *Globe-Democrat* will to-morrow print the following: A number of personal friends were discussing some incidents of the late war; one of them spoke of Lincoln's aversion to blood-hed, and in illustration said he had it from a member of the cabinet of the war period that Lincoln on his return from the Hampton Roads conference, in February, 1865, proposed to his cabinet to submit a message to Congress giving to the Southern States an amount of money equal to the probable cost of the war for that time to its close, on condition of their laying down their arms and returning to their loyalty to the Union. The editor of the *Globe-Democrat* hearing of the conversation, sent a memorandum of it to Hon. J. P. Usher, who was, at the time referred to, Lincoln's Secretary of the Interior, and who is now a resident of Lawrence, Kansas, requesting him to state his recollection as to its correctness.

From Usher's reply, which was received yesterday we make the following extract: "Soon after his (Lincoln's) return from James River, the cabinet was convened and he read to it for approval, a message which he had prepared to be submitted to Congress, in which he recommended that Congress appropriate \$300,000,000 to be apportioned among the several States in proportion to the slave population in those States upon condition that they would consent to the abolition of slavery and disband the insurgent army and acknowledge and submit to the laws of the United States. The members of the cabinet were all opposed. He seemed somewhat surprised at that and asked:

"How long will the war last?" No one answered, but he soon said, 'A hundred days. Well, we are spending now, in carrying on the war, \$3,000,000 a day, which will amount to all this money, besides all the lives.' With a deep sigh he added, 'But you are all opposed to me and I will not send the message.'"

NEW YORK, 31.—Ferdinand Ward was sentenced by Judge Barrett to-day to the States prison for ten years.

Ferdinand Ward smiling and perfectly self-possessed came into the crowded court room this morning to receive the sentence of the law for one of the many crimes which he had committed in the world of finance. The sheriff and warden of Ludlow Street Jail accompanied him. Throwing off his overcoat with a lazy air, he bowed to and shook hands with his counsel. As he looked around the room he saw a few of the familiar faces.

The jury by which Ward had been found guilty were not all present in a body, but a number of the jurymen occupied seats in the court room. The box, however, was not empty. It was occupied by court attaches of the building, limbs of the law and others who dropped in to hear the Little Napoleon of Wall Street sentenced. The court clerk was promptly on hand with his assistant. The judge, however, was late, and did not arrive until 20 minutes after the appointed hour. When the machinery of the law was set in motion, a persistent lawyer arose and asked for a stay of proceedings in the case. Judge Barrett tried in a gentle way to persuade the lawyer to wait until later in the day, but the latter was so earnest and bound to have his own way, that the court allowed him to proceed.

LYNCHBURG, Va., 31.—On account of heavy washouts on railways connecting here, this city is almost isolated from the outer world. No northern mails have been received here for three days and business is suffering in consequence.

WASHINGTON, 31.—The Utah Commission, through its chairman, Alexander Ramsey, has submitted to the Secretary of the Interior their annual report upon the transactions and proceedings of the Commission since November 18, 1884, the date of their last report.

Their report begins with the statement that the usual annual revision of the Utah registration lists for the present year was duly and thoroughly made by the officers of the Board, and that the general election was held August 3rd last. No person living in the practice of polygamy was allowed to register or vote, nor was any such person elected or commissioned to any office. This point, therefore, has been surely reached, says the Commission, that the name of a polygamist cannot be found on the registration lists and none of this class are holding office. Nevertheless it is true that nearly all the officers chosen at the last, and in other preceding elections, are Mormons who, while they do not actually live in polygamous marriages as a divine revelation and a law unto all—higher and more binding upon the conscience than any human law. A notable exception, however, occurred in Summit County, where the entire non-Mormon ticket, including a member of the House of Representatives of the Legislative Assembly, was elected. This Representative was the first non-Mormon elected for many years.

The Commission refer to the recent decision of the Supreme Court as a timely interpretation of the law.

It is believed that there have been few polygamous marriages during the present year, but it is not regarded as prudent to look upon this fact as in