

though, an overhanging cloud blurs the rapture of the occasion and bids us not forget the immense cost of the bygone administration—the debt unpaid.

Now, Mr. Editor, if we have plunged ourselves into debt while under the wardship of our uncle, how shall we now escape it notwithstanding the real estate bequests made us?

It would seem that our recent Legislature, in view of the obligations we owe and the repeated caution of the inaugural message should have felt more restrained than to create a horde of new officers "to eat out our substance," for all must be fed from the public crib of borrowed treasure. True it is suggested that the honor attached to some offices is deemed sufficient compensation for service required. If so, are there any offices devoid of honor when faithful service is performed. If not, is it reasonable to expect efficient service from one class of officers unpaid and generously reward another? Such a proposal from the latter comes with bad grace except it apply only to the sinecure.

Conscience; have the hungry crowd of office-seekers any? And zealous patriotism during this perilous transitional period, should not only prompt the avoidance of increased State debt but should point to the reduction to a minimum the stipend of all state, county and municipal officers. The result would be instantly felt in all the avenues of life. The worthy competent would be sought for official duties; elections would be fair, the will of the people predominate, the dignity of office be preserved, better laws would be enacted, their administration would be purer and the treasury would not be depleted.

Utah, from its infancy, made rapid growth on small means. Our honored fathers, rather than impoverish the Territorial treasury, when once the Congress of the United States refused to make appropriations for legislative service, utterly refused proffered compensation.

Utah will eventually become all that its most ardent well-wishers can ask, but ostentation at present will not bring it about. The foundation of a reliable and prosperous commonwealth is not the work of a day—its basic principles in every department must be just and unequivocally sound—with an entire absence of anything which can justify breed discontent. Its officers should be men of unquestionable capability and integrity. Then all men will be equal before the law. The rights of all and each will be preserved—no favored class—no class legislation.

This brings me face to face with the recent action of the Legislature on the mortgage question. I stand or fall on my former sentiments in that relation and again pronounce the non-taxation of the mortgage holder basely unjust. There has not been, and in my opinion there cannot be, a good, sound argument, not even the "unconstitutional" one, presented in its favor.

The legislative action, therefore, is considered a concession which, in equity, can only be made by the respective mortgage givers.

It was claimed that the taxes could be easier collected from the borrower than from the lender of money. This implies either inefficiency—laziness on

the part of the officers—or effeminacy on the part of the government. As well might the department of justice clutch and imprison the innocent because the alleged guilty person could not so easily be found.

Again, it was said, "to assess the money lender would disturb the equanimity of trade and commerce—money is very timid and sensitive—loans would not be prevalent or means loaned would be withdrawn."

The inference is that the effect of dealing justly is more to be dreaded than of doing otherwise. Away with such nonsense. Establish right on the outset, for never, if our experience is a good teacher, will the protruding fangs of the golden viper be easier loosened than now.

For goodness sake, if the rich money lenders are too poor to lift their portion of the burdens of state, why in the name of common sense not let the repudiated burden fall equally on all. Has gold so bedimmed our eyes that a general reverence must be paid the insatiable Moloch of our time? Utah from her infancy has been famous for her ability and willingness to meet her obligations, and coffers now groaning with immense riches are awaiting her time and order to disgorge.

JOSEPH ORTON.

#### MORMON AND NON-MORMON.

WAGENER, Aiken Co.,

South Carolina, April 11, 1896.

The cause of truth is prospering here, and each day sees some addition to our already numerous list of friends. Earnest investigators are being aroused by our appeals to their reason. Of course there are still indications of bitterness; but these people, we are happy to say, are in the minority. Threats are occasionally heard, but they only serve to make the line of demarkation between friends and enemies more clear. They are but smoldering embers of the fire of persecution which years ago burned so fiercely. The people are beginning to see that we really have their interests at heart, and that our efforts are aimed at the amelioration of the condition of mankind. We are making friends of the influential citizens, who extend to us generally the most hearty and cordial hospitality.

We have at present thirty Elders in this conference; all of them earnest, connections and zealous workers. Their labors are conducted according to a well defined system. Thoroughness rather than speed is the watchword of the Elders. We feel that the blessings of the Lord are with us daily, and this gives us renewed energy and determination. Many manifestations of the Holy Spirit's presence might be related, but time will not permit.

As an evidence of the change of feeling toward the Latter-day Saints, we cite the following: In a district where our Elders were mobbed three years ago we had no trouble in canvassing the town and easily secured a place in which to preach.

There is still room in the mission field for sincere, progressive Elders—those who are indeed men of God, capable of preaching His Gospel in mighty power to the people.

The Elders would be pleased at any

time to hear from their friends in Zion. The following are the names and addresses of each pair of Elders:

Samuel P. Oldham and J. H. Whitney, Wagener, Aiken county, S. C.

James A. Smith and Robert Cleveland, Seneca, Oconee county, S. C.

John Bond and Alma Millett, Union, Union county, S. C.

D. A. Wilcox and Nelson Cottam, Newberry, Newberry county, S. C.

John B. Green and A. W. Wright, Barkedale, Laurens county, S. C.

T. J. Yates and Laron T. Andrus, Charleston, S. C.

George A. Varney and Alfred Kearle, Lake City, Williamsburg Co., S. C.

Joseph W. Parker and John Martin, Bamberg, Barnwell county, S. C.

Morris Wilson and A. W. Backwalter, Summerville, Berkeley county, S. C.

Levi A. Phillips and J. J. Stephenson, Ridgeway, Fairfield county, S. C.

C. G. Patterson and C. V. Call, Helotmann, Williamsburg county, S. C.

F. H. Haskell and Herbert E. Smyth, Hampton, Hampton county, S. C.

J. A. Fortie and Richard Chamberlain, Wagener, Aiken county, S. C.

Peter N. Guymon and J. H. Glenn, Knots Mill, Orangeburg county, S. C.

O. H. Shumway and John A. Gordon, Lock Hill, York county, S. C.

The NEWS is a frequent and welcome visitor, and is a valuable help in dispelling prejudice and making the Gospel attractive. It gives a glimpse of home life and thereby inspires its readers with profound confidence in us.

SAMUEL P. OLDHAM,

Prest. S. C. Conference.

JOB H. WHITNEY.

#### "WAY DOWN IN ALABAMA."

GADSDEN, Alabama,

April 8, 1896.

For the last four months, in company with Elder David Hubbard, of Idaho, Elder Rodney E. Ashby has been laboring in Tippah county, situated in the north part of Mississippi. In that county we found very hospitable as well as intelligent and sincere people. Many of them are at present prayerfully investigating the principles of the doctrine of Christ, and by the help of the Lord we have been able to present our views to the majority of the people of that county where, it is evident, reside many people of the blood of Israel. We were admitted into many of the best church houses of the different denominations, and shepherds as well as their flocks came to hear the explanations we gave in a series of meetings. Not only were we welcomed in their church houses, but also into their homes to tables laden with the luxuries as well as the necessities of life.

Of the host of friends we have in that part of the Lord's vineyard, we are pleased to mention the name of a distinguished, highly educated and sincere gentleman in the person of Judge B. F. Worsham, who held the office of county judge for many years, in which time he, by his honest decisions and justice, gained for himself a name which will ever be revered. Nor is his amiable wife behind in character and disposition that cause an