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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . February 28, 1891.

## SOLVING THE INDIAN PROBLEM.

THIS issue contains a communication from Mr. Charles Ellis. Its object, as will be seen from a perusal of its contents, is to present an adequate means of solving the Indian question, and thus abolishing all future necessity of bloodshed and lavish expenditure of treasure in its attempted settlement. We insert the communication merely as presenting the views of the writer. It may interest a good many to read the expression of his opinions. However sound they may be in relation to the solution of a grave and important problem, their adoption is about as improbable as anything that could be imagined.

The successful treatment of the Indians by the "Mormons" has in the past aroused unfounded jealousy, and a hue-and-cry has been raised to the effect that the friendly spirit thus manifested toward the red men was a menace to the nation. All sorts of falsehoods have been circulated on the subject, so that the very qualities which the "Mormon" people possess would be a barrier to the adoption of the suggestion made by Mr. Ellis. Business men who have relations with the Saints are free to admit that they are the peers of any people in the country in the matter of honest dealing. And this same integrity would doubtless be manifested in transactions with the Indians as with any other people. Those who are honest make no distinction in that respect. If their conduct is not uniform toward all alike then they are not honest in the fullest sense.

As an illustration of the jealousy that exists toward the "Mormons" on this subject, it is not necessary to go beyond the recent difficulty. They have been accused, without the shadow of a foundation, of having incited the trouble by causing one of the Elders to mutilate his hands and feet and, pass himself off upon the red man as the Savior. When those who were investigating the subject learned that the Indians who asserted they had seen Christ, declared that his speaking could be understood by all those who

heard him, without respect to tribe or language, then it was foolishly stated that there must be more than one Elder engaged in the personating business.

No one who believes in "Mormonism," which is really the Gospel of Christ, would ever think of engaging in the commission of a crime so outrageously sacrilegious. Several persons have been found since the trouble began who were alleged to be personators of the Savior, but none of them were "Mormons." No amount of investigation would ever show that a Latter-day Saint was ever associated with such a heinous offense against religion and humanity.

We only refer to the latest anti-"Mormon" accusation relating to the Indian question for the purpose of showing that the adoption of Mr. Ellis' suggestion on the subject is highly improbable, no matter how correct his position may be.

The practical effect of "Mormon" influence upon the Indians may be seen in those settlements where the reformed savages are dwelling in peace, tilling the soil and making an honest living, gradually advancing in civilization and becoming respectable citizens of the United States. That is an "object lesson" which should teach the maligners of the "Mormons" to hold their tongues, and constitutes a complete refutation of all the absurd stories as to the "Mormons" tampering with the Indians.

## THE ATTITUDE OF AN ILLUSTRIOUS TRIBUNE.

THE death of General W. T. Sherman recalls to mind the position he maintained towards the "Mormon" people. He paid several visits to this Territory, consequently his attitude regarding them could not well be misunderstood. So far as we are aware, he never uttered an unkind word about the Saints. On the contrary, on several occasions, he expressed unqualified admiration for some of the traits they have exhibited. During one of his visits to Salt Lake, in response to a complimentary serenade he addressed a large assemblage of people who had gathered in front of the hotel at which he was stopping. Speaking directly to the people who first settled this region and of their labors in redeeming the wilderness, he said, in substance, so far as we can recollect: You have accomplished a great work in forming towns and settlements, making farms and orchards, and performing other meritorious labors. Keep on in the direction on which you have been traveling in these

matters and pay no attention to those who seek to harass you and impede you in your progress. If you do so a great destiny awaits you. These are not the exact words of the deceased veteran, but they, according to our recollection, embody the thoughts that he expressed.

It has been a rule with the great American soldiers of our time to be generous and just toward a people who have been so numerically abused without reason. Not a great while before the death of the late General Sheridan—another of the conspicuous heroes of the late war, he was approached, in Chicago, by a representative of the press, and asked what he had to say about the Mormons, the latter being, at that time, a prominent subject of press discussion. His reply was characteristic of the man. He said, "I have nothing to say about the Mormons at all; and," he added with decided emphasis, "don't you say I have said anything either." The scribe reported the brief interview just as it occurred. If he had misrepresented General Sheridan there would doubtless have been trouble in the wind for him.

A few years ago, the late General Terry paid a visit to this city. While here he made some inquiries of Governor Murray respecting the religious doctrines of the Mormon Church. Mr. Murray frankly told the General that he did not really know a great deal about them himself, but he would find somebody who did, from whom he could get whatever information he desired. He made an appointment with two Elders of the Church to meet General Terry and an interview took place. The late eminent soldier made a great many inquiries about "Mormonism," he listened respectfully and with deep interest to the replies and explanations made in response to his interrogatories. If General Terry ever uttered an unkind expression regarding the Mormons we were never made aware of the fact.

Great soldiers as a rule are liberal minded and generous toward all classes of people, and only become contracted and unjust toward their fellowbeings when they degenerate to the position of wire-working politicians. However, soldiers who are really great are incapable of descending to such a debasing level.

The editorial department of the *Tribune* shows sickly floundering. Its inconsistencies on unity were well shown up. Its panegyric on disunion reminds one of what the Irish poet said of the carpet baggers. They came to divide and dishonor, and tyrants they long will remain.