

they thought them virtuous, not because they thought them holy, not because they looked upon them as pure; but because they were considered too dangerous to be suffered to live.

I wonder when I know that this has been the case that the world cannot see to-day, that the same spirit is abroad in the earth. It is not usual for wicked people to kill wicked people, that is, in the way the prophets and apostles were killed.

Here is a feeble people in these mountains who have come here fleeing from a persecuting world with them when they left their native States and launched forth into an untrodden and unknown wilderness, a love for the principles of liberty for which their fathers, many of them, had fought. Notwithstanding their persecutions and the vile treatment they had received at the hands of their fellow citizens, they did not in a low that feeling to dominate in their hearts; but loving the flag, the stars and stripes; loving the public; loving the institutions of freedom, loving the Constitution, loving the laws, and carrying with them that love into the heart of the wilderness and there laying the foundation of a great commonwealth they sought for admission as a State, and to have in that State every human right fully guarded and civil and religious liberty secured for people of every creed, and of no creeds, not seeking for alliance with Mexico, whose land they occupied; not seeking alliance with Great Britain, who was their neighbor on the north; not seeking alliance with the wild races, or endeavoring, or seeking to set up an independent republic, but their hearts going back fondly to the home of their fathers, to the land which their fathers had helped to redeem and make free to the Constitution upon which the government of the land was founded, to the flag for which their fathers had fought and bled, they showed to the world that persecuted a they might be, hated as they might be, despised as they might be, and driven as they might be, they could not extinguisht within them the love of liberty, the love of true republicanism. This was the testimony which this people bore to the inhabitants of the earth; and it might be thought, as I have said, that the people who had done this, working with unceasing toil to reclaim the waste places and make them habitable and beautiful and a fit abode for themselves and their children; sending out missionaries at a cold sacrifice to the nations of the earth to proclaim the Gospel and rather in the honest faith in their own and from the remotest nations of the earth; doing this for years, until gradually, as we see, the stately structure of a great commonwealth rises up around us; law executed; liberty preserved; the utmost freedom extended to every human being throughout the length and breadth of these mountain valleys; life and property as secure here as they ever were in any of the States of the Union; strangers coming to here before the railroad was built, weary and foot sore, received with hospitable kindness. This tabernacle, after it was erected, and before this was erected, the old tabernacle, and before that was erected, the bowery, opened to preachers of every denomination; men of every creed united to proclaim their tenets, to give us their views; women protected throughout this land with such sacredness that they, old or young, beautiful or homely, could traverse every valley and pass through every north and south, night or day, without hearing a word that would be improper, without ever witnessing a gesture that would annoy them; immigrants with their wagons coming in and leaving them in a uncaring, and not a thing in harm or taken;—I say, it might be thought, viewing and witnessing these results—the virtue, the temperance, the good order, the frugality, the industry, the enterprise, the liberality, the honesty of the people, that somebody would think and say:

"What do all these attacks mean? Why is this crusade being waged against a people of this kind. Surely fifty millions of people with all the advantages of the press, the press, telegraph wires, pulp, day and Sabbath schools, the wonderful improvements that are being brought out, everything in fact, in their power, including the wealth of the world at their command, surely these fifty millions of people should suffer a few thousands of people in Utah, to dwell in some degree of peace without constantly urging on

the dogs of war against them; without hounding on every vile fellow in the nation to rob them and to engage in crusades against them, with the assurance that they will be justified in doing so."

But now, this is not to be; it is just thus written; it is not the destiny of this people. We would never be the people God intends and designs us to be if we were to be let alone. The warfare must go on; it is an unceasing one; the powers are arrayed one against another, with God on one side and the Adversary on the other. The devil is not going to relinquish his ground. He has tried falsehood from the beginning, and tried it successfully in many instances. It has been all of him that he was a liar from the beginning; and it is certain he has not lost his old characteristics. He has succeeded by means of murder many times in the history of our race. He has contrived by this agency to maintain his foothold in the earth for a long time. He thinks, like men, think who steal things and keep them for a long time, that he is the owner of the stolen property. The man who jumps another man's land or claim, the longer he possesses it the more assured he becomes that he ought to have it. Satan is imbued with this same idea; and he has recourse to the old method of warfare—lying; and lies are being circulated until the ear is tired listening to them. Every conceivable falsehood! Then he supplements lies with violence, and even murder has been resorted to. He thinks, if he can kill a man that puts an end to him; if he can kill a people that destroys them and their influence. But this time it is another sort of a work. God has spoken concerning this work; this is the last work that the Prophets or the Apostles have called the dispensation of the fulness of times. There was to be a time when Satan should have to recede in by inch, step by step. That time has come. The column of the righteous, of the tree is pressing on; and there is an irresistible power behind it. It will go forward gathering into its ranks the honest and virtuous from every nation; just as sure as we live this will be the case. It will gather people from every nation. It seems like a very strange thing to say, but on a proper occasion I say it with a great deal of pleasure, at home and from home, that I have been taught from early life that the day would come when republican institutions would be in danger in this nation and upon this continent, when, in fact, the republic would be so rent asunder by actions that there would be no stable government outside of the Latter-day Saints; and that it is their destiny as a people, to uphold constitutional government upon this land. Now, a great many people think this is a chimera of the brain; they think it folly to indulge in such an idea; but the day will come nevertheless. There are those in this congregation who will witness the time that the maintenance of true constitutional government upon this continent will be dependent upon this people, when it will have to be upheld by us.

We are battling all the time for human rights. We did so in the States before we were driven out; we have done so throughout these mountains, and are doing so to-day contending for our rights. Even before the great tribunal of our nation, Congress, the contest is going on; for attempts are constantly being made to wrest from us our liberties, as citizens; and we are standing our ground as best we can, pleading for our rights, pleading for liberty of worship, pleading for liberty of conscience, pleading for that freedom which belongs to the country, which God has guaranteed through the Constitution; not for ourselves alone, but for every creed, for every member of the human family. We do not want liberty for ourselves alone; we desire every man to have it; liberty for Ingersoll, and all who believe as he does; liberty for the followers of Mohammed and all who believe in the Koran; liberty for Beecher and for those of his way of thinking; and even Talmage who has talked so badly about us, we would have him enjoy liberty; yes, and permit him to say what he pleases about us, to take what view he pleases of our beliefs and practices, and to tell everybody what he thinks about them. We would give him the utmost liberty to do this, and every other man, to say what they please about us or about anybody else, as long as they do not interfere with the rights and the liberties of the

people against whom they are opposed, protesting always, however, that men in criticizing others, should confine themselves strictly to the truth, or be held responsible to the laws for slanders and falsehood. All sects and all people should have this liberty, that is, liberty of conscience, liberty of speech and liberty of the press, as long as it does not degenerate into license, and interfere with the rights of others. We claim this for ourselves; we contend for it, and we shall contend for it until it is gained.

Now, my brethren and sisters, I forgot that it is Sunday; I do not know, however, but what this is as good Gospel as I can declare; it is the Gospel of humanity; it is the Gospel of truth. And I hope that you will ever be true to these principles. It makes no difference really whether you will or not, so far as this great work is concerned; but it is a glorious reflection to know that we are striving to accomplish these ends.

When I look at the wonderful deliverance that has been wrought out for us, it is a subject of amazement to me. Still our enemies continue to plot and get up machinations. It is all right, let them have their agency, let them do as they please; it ought not to disturb us or cause us a moment's uneasiness. Let them do as they please as long as they keep hands off.

I pray God to bless you and fill you with His Holy Spirit, and to bless His servants who may address us during this Conference, in the name of Jesus. Amen.

OUR WASHINGTON CORRESPONDENT.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS—THE "BASIS" OF A NAVY—CIVIL SERVICE—RED-TAPEISM—THE DEADLOCK.

WASHINGTON, D. C.,
May 26th, 1882.

As I stated in my last, the principal Department buildings in Washington, by reason of their size, are very easily singled out from amongst other buildings in the city. In a word, their architectural design, their solidity of construction, and their enormous dimensions, immediately suggest the fact that millions of dollars must have been spent in their erection. Of course such a lavish expenditure of money upon Government buildings may be all right enough; the best civil service in the world perhaps requires that it should be so. In any case I neither find fault with the buildings themselves, nor with the amount of money expended upon them. As a citizen of the United States I ought, I suppose, in the face of the many gigantic government steals on record, to feel thankful that in the Department buildings there is something to show for the money. The same thing, I am rather afraid, cannot be said of the navy. Hundreds of millions of dollars, as all the nation knows, have been appropriated, from time to time, by Congress for the construction, or reconstruction of the American navy; yet, comparatively speaking, all we have got is the basis for a navy—the water! Hence, in the case of the navy, there is almost nothing to show for the money; and, as a matter of course, those who have had the manipulation of the funds for naval purposes, are openly accused of theft, for which certain journals maintain they ought to pass the rest of their natural lives in prison. But all these accusations, as a rule, amount to nothing. That is, the men who are thus accused hold (some of them) responsible government positions to-day, and the inference is that they are as ready now as ever, if an opportune chance turns up, to participate in other "jobs" of equal magnitude. I therefore repeat that, in the midst of so much downright dishonesty, it is a matter of congratulation to find that in the Department buildings, at least, there is something to show for the money; that even supposing the buildings have cost twice the amount they ought to cost, it is more than likely they have—it is satisfactory to know that the whole business has not been an absolute, bare-faced steal.

The American nation having of late years assumed such prodigious dimensions, it is easy to imagine that the machinery required to run the government is necessarily very large, much larger, indeed, than most people have any conception of. To become convinced of this, one has only to reside in Washington a very short time—only long enough, in fact, to witness the thousands

upon thousands of well dressed government clerks, male and female, pouring into the various Departments about the hour of nine in the morning. I have looked many a time upon this living stream of government employees, and wondered what on earth they can all get to do.

Napoleon, it is said, once referred to England as "a nation of shopkeepers;" and it has often struck me that the City of Washington, with equally as much truth, might be designated "a city of boarding-houses and government employees." Almost every third white man you meet is a government clerk; and as for boarding-houses, they seem about as numerous—I was going to say, as the sands of the sea shore,—as it is possible for them to be in any city and leave room for anything else. A man who cannot get "lodgings" in Washington, on the plea that he cannot see any "to let," must be in exactly the same position as the individual who couldn't see the wood for trees.

In Washington, it is not a question of—"where do you reside?" but of—"where do you room?" The reason of this is obvious. A man may occupy a pretty respectable position in the capital city and yet be utterly unable, if he be a married man, to rent and furnish a house. The houses, as a rule, on the main streets and principal avenues are, to the class that I refer to a prohibitory character, because of their size and consequent high rent, and thus recourse to the rooming principle has become a necessity. To those of western ideas, who appreciate a home of their own, to be thus compelled with a family to room in the way I have described, and "board out" would simply be perfect misery. Yet this sort of life, I suppose, to those who have known no other, may be agreeable enough. I should certainly persuade them to the contrary, however, if I had a chance. And I know whereof I speak.

But to return to the civil service of government clerks to which I have referred. As I have said they keep pouring into the Department by thousands—into the Treasury Department; the War Department; the Navy Department; the Post-Office Department; the Interior Department; the Department of Justice; of Agriculture; the government Printing Office; the Department of State, etc.

As to the method of doing business in these departments, like the majority of people, I feel myself utterly incapable of throwing any light upon the subject. The civil service of the American government—which is sarcastically referred to as the best in the world—is something that I don't care to tackle. To arrive at a correct conception of its utility, would, I am afraid, puzzle even the smartest of Philadelphia lawyers. Personally I have never had occasion to transact business in any of the Departments—though I have been through most of them—but have met a great many people who have not been quite so fortunate. The latter class having spent years in trying to get a settlement of their little claims, pronounce the civil service of the American government—by reason of its slow dispatch of business—a fraud, a huge humbug! This may be true, or it may not; but I verily believe that, so far as red-tapeism is concerned, the American civil service is on a par, at least, with anything of the kind to be found in the English civil service, where red tapeism is said to exist to an alarming extent.

In a well written book entitled *Sub Rosa* (a novel of Washington life, by Charles T. Murray, a newspaper correspondent of considerable reputation in this city) I have found the best description of the system of doing business in the Departments that I can find anywhere. In one chapter of his book Mr. Murray designates, as the chief of one of the divisions in the Treasury Department, the Hon. Dungeon Crusher. This important individual, of course, has a great many documents to sign; but it must not be supposed that the contents of any of the papers undergoing his disfigurement are known to him. Such a knowledge, says Mr. Murray, is neither necessary nor possible. He simply signs them because they come before him through the proper channel, bearing the proper initials. The latter there, he would sign even a promissory note—and never know the difference until it was presented for payment. It is the duty, of course, of Mr. Crusher's hired men to see that such an acci-

dent does not occur. And the safeguards thrown around this great man are many. "For instance: A stipendiary at twelve hundred dollars a year writes a letter on some branch of public business nobody else knows anything about, and puts his initials in the bottom left hand corner; a sixteen-hundred-dollar fellow in charge of his room, and paid expressly for that purpose, puts his initials on another corner; a six-hundred-dollar messenger carries it to an eighteen-hundred-dollar fellow in charge of that division; the eighteen-hundred-dollar fellow puts his initials on another corner, and sends it by another six-hundred-dollar messenger to Mr. Crusher, who, seeing the corners alphabetically as aforesaid, affixes his signature as aforesaid." Those who have had anything to do with the Departments will recognize the above as an excellent description of the method of doing business. The system of checks is admirable. But occasionally, you know, something does go wrong, and it is then that "the practical utility as well as the evident beauty of the system" becomes apparent. "If anything should occur to call in question the subject matter of any government epistle, as is often the case, the great Crusher, after metaphorically obliterating messengers, copyists, or anybody who happens in his way at such an inopportune time, rings his bell and summons Mr. Cod." [Mr. Cod, I must explain, is Mr. Crusher's chief clerk.] "That gentleman is sternly requested to give an account of the matter. As Mr. Cod is usually as innocent as a babe in the wood of any public business whatever, he scrutinizes the initials and lays the blame on somebody else. Then Mr. Crusher wants Mr. Cod to inform him why in Halifax he, Cod, has such men about him. With this Nova Scotian inquiry ringing in his ears, Mr. Cod takes the letter and offense to the Chief of Division, and wants to know what the Old Scratch he means, anyhow, by affixing his initials to a thing like that. As this official has no more idea—beyond his initials—than Mr. Crusher himself what the business is, he rings his little bell and dispatches a messenger for the head of the room whence the document emanated. But as he knows even less about it than Mr. Cod, he is compelled to fall back on the twelve hundred-dollar stipendiary—the only man in the whole Crusher establishment who really understands the case or can explain the error. This humble individual, having nobody to fall back on, shoulders the responsibility, pockets his chagrin, and does his work over again." An example such as the above, showing the great efficiency of the American Civil Service, is sufficient to satisfy the most captious. And I have reason to believe, from conversation with department employees, that Mr. Murray's picture is by no means overdrawn—that is, that it really does take about a dozen able-bodied men to dispose of a single communication, and that as a rule, the said able-bodied men, when a communication is called in question, know as much about it as the man in the moon. Of late I have plowed through most of the Departments, and from what I have seen—in addition to what I have been told—I can more than ever appreciate Mark Twain's *Great Beef Contract* story, wherein it is related that one named "John Wilson McKenzie," and several of his descendants died in trying to collect from the government an amount due for beef supplied to General Sherman's army, and had it not been that Mark, who became heir to this debt—if I remember the tale aright—made a present of it to a Treasury girl, he, too, in all likelihood, would, ere this, have passed off the stage of action. So much for the "great civil service in the world."

Since Saturday last the House of Representatives, through the filibustering of the Democrats over the South Carolina contested election case, has been in that condition known as a deadlock, and at the time of writing there appears to be no prospect of an alteration in this disgraceful state of affairs. Throughout the whole session, the arrogance of the Republican majority, led by Robeson, and dictated by Kiefer, has been most marked, and it is now said—so I am credibly informed—that many of the Democrats are sorry they did not commence to filibuster sooner. Your telegraph dispatches will doubtless have furnished you the particulars of the election case in question, and therefore it is unnecessary that I should give even a *resumé* as to the case of