

press. These slanderous concoctions have caused the production of the following correspondence, which appeared in a prominent Derbyshire journal on the 27th of February:

"SIR—I learn by the newspapers that a Mr. J. Ward is lecturing on the subject of "Mormonism" at South Normanton. Some of the papers of Nottingham, either through bigotry or fear, refuse to publish the truth about the "Mormons," and reject every communication which does not malign that people. Learning that the *Journal* is willing to allow both sides a fair hearing, I venture a few suggestions for the consideration of your readers. It is stated in the papers that at Mr. Ward's lecture the audience voted in favor of a resolution condemning Mormonism and pledging themselves to do their utmost to clear the village of those professing and preaching that belief.

"One of Solomon's proverbs reads: 'He that answereth a matter before he heareth it, it is a folly and a shame unto him.' To condemn a people and enter into a crusade against them without giving them a hearing—not a challenge from an enemy to reply, but an actual listening to the response—certainly appears to be a folly, and a reproach to an Englishman's sense of justice. When we reason with ourselves, we cannot but conclude that a public speaker who would, after arousing the enthusiasm of his audience by a fiery harangue, ask them to decide upon the fate of a fellow-being, without giving the accused a fair and impartial hearing, has it in his heart to mislead, and is

'Fit for treason, stratagem, and spoils.'

"Mr. Ward accused the people of Utah of being "the vilest set of men on the earth." We have the testimony of representative Englishmen upon this point, and it certainly is entitled to weight, for these gentlemen have been among the Mormons and know whereof they speak. Captain Burton, of the British army, says of them: "In point of mere morality, the Mormon community is perhaps purer than any other of equal numbers. * * * I was much pleased with their religious tolerance. The Mormons are certainly the least fanatical of our faiths, owning like the Hindus, that every man should walk his own way, while claiming for themselves superiority in belief and practice."

"Mr. Phil Robinson, the well known London journalist and correspondent, writes: 'How can anyone have respect for literature or the men who, without knowing anything of the lives of Mormons, stigmatize them as profane, adulterous, and drunken? These men write of the squalid poverty of the Mormons, of their obscene brutality, of their unceasing treason toward the United States, of their blasphemous repudiation of the Bible, without one particle of information on the subject, except such as they gather from the books and writings of men whom they ought to know are utterly unworthy of credit, or from the verbal calumnies of apostates; and what the evidence of apostates is worth history has long ago told us. * * *

I am now stating facts; and I, who have lived among the Mormons and

with them, can assure my readers that every day of my residence increased my regret at the misrepresentation these people have suffered.

I have seen and spoken to and lived with Mormon men and women of every class, and never in my life, in any Christian country, have I come in contact with more consistent piety, sobriety and neighborly charity. I say this deliberately, without a particle of odious sanctimony—these folks are in their words and actions as Christian as I ever thought to see men and women.

The Mormons are a peasant people, with many of the faults of peasant life, but with many of the best human virtues as well.

The demeanor of the women in Utah, as compared with Brighton or Washington, is modesty itself; and the children are just such healthy, vigorous, pretty children as one sees in the country or by the seaside in England.

"Mr. James W. Barclay, M.P., of Leeds; also traveled in Utah, and in an article published in the *Nineteenth Century*, he says: "The Mormons, as a people, are tolerant, temperate, peaceable, and industrious. Temperance is in some cases carried to the extreme of abstinence from alcohol of all kinds, tobacco, and tea. Before the Federal Government exercised so much authority as now, drinking saloons and other establishments of vice were prohibited; and, although a few professing Mormons keep drinking saloons, they are held in disgrace. * * *

The Mormon community is an enlarged family, bound together by privileges and duties, one principal duty being to care for the helpless and the needy. At the same time, every individual has full freedom of action. There is no compulsion on any Mormon beyond the public opinion of his fellows, and none is possible. Apostasy even does not appear to be attended with serious consequences to the apostate's material interests. Some of the largest merchants in Salt Lake City have apostatized from the Church, and although the population in Utah is about nine-tenths Mormon, their business seems to prosper as before.

In morality, as far as shown by statistics, the Mormons greatly excel the Gentiles in their midst, and the general population of the States.

There is no religious caste or class. From the President downwards, the office-bearers of the Church are selected by the voice of the Mormon community; they require no special qualification, and no one receives any salary or other emolument; the missionaries despatched to all parts of the world do not receive even traveling expenses."

Bishop D. S. Tuttle who for years was an episcopal clergyman in Salt Lake City, delivered a lecture in New York City on the "Mormons," in which he made this statement: 'In Salt Lake City alone there are over 17,000 Latter-day Saints. Now, who are they? I will tell you, and I think that, after I have concluded, you will look on them more favorably than you have been accustomed to do. Springing from the center of your own State (N.Y.) in 1830, they drifted slowly westward until they finally rested in the Basin of the Great Salt Lake. I know

that the people of the east have obtained the most unfavorable opinion of them, and have judged them unjustly. They have many traits that are worthy of admiration, and they believe with a fervent faith that their religion is a direct revelation from God. We of the east are accustomed to look upon the Mormons as either a licentious, arrogant or rebellious mob, bent only on defying the United States government and deriding the faith of the Christians. This is not so. I know them to be honest, faithful, prayerful workers, and earnest in their faith that heaven will bless the Church of Latter-day Saints. Another strong and admirable feature in the Mormon religion is the tenacious and efficient organization. They follow with the greatest care all the forms of the old church.

"The Rev. John C. Kimball, of Hartford, Connecticut, U. S. A., gives in the *Boston Index* this testimony of the Mormon people: "Still stronger is the evidence derived from official statistics as to their intelligence and virtue. In Salt Lake City, in 1881, the published reports show that the arrests for crime were *fourteen times* as many among the Gentiles, in proportion to their number, as among the Mormons; and taking the Territory as a whole, the Gentile population furnished *forty-six* convicts in the penitentiary where the Mormon population, number for number, furnished one! According to the United States census, Massachusetts has four times as many convicts to the same population as Utah; four and a-half times as many idiots and insane, and nine times as many paupers. Utah, in school attendance, according to the same authority (the United States census for 1880), is ahead of Massachusetts; and with all that has been said about the ignorance of its people and its immense foreign immigration, its proportion of people that cannot read and write is put down as less than that of New England. And still more striking, the women there, instead of being kept in ignorance and subjection, are educated in the same studies and to the same extent as boys and men, are equally fitted to earn their own living out in the world and maintain an independent career."

"Evidence coming from such sources as these is surely worthy of credence. Mr. Ward charges the Mormon Church with being murderers. I was in Salt Lake City in November and December, 1889, and attended the sessions of the United States courts there. The case in progress was one of peculiar interest, for it was an official attempt to prove this same charge. Out of all the allegations of murder, only one man could be named, a Mr. Wm. Green, who it was said was murdered in 1862 because he had apostatized from the Church. A great deal of hearsay testimony was introduced, but the climax was reached when William Green himself subsequently declared on oath that he had not been murdered nor had any attempt been made upon him. He had left the Church, but was never molested in any way. Thus failed the only charge of murder against the Church that has ever been brought to issue upon the evidence.

"The Mormons obey strictly the laws here, and under such circumstances it is gross wickedness to demand that