

thought and act, and curbs and checks degrading purposes and deeds. There is no religious system worthy of the name which does not move in these two ways. Moral impulses and moral hindrances inhere in all the religions of heathendom and Christendom. Belief in a Supreme Being who is the Eternal Judge of mortals is the central principle and force of them all, and this affects the conduct of their devotees. The morals of the world have been regulated by the religions of the world, and the decadence of morality means the decadence of religion.

It is claimed that all religions are of human manufacture, that they are the products of men's superstitions and fears and imaginings. But the religions that have swayed mankind and lifted humanity from barbarism were superior to the men who first received and taught them. They presented a higher standard of morality than anything existing among them, and raised those who embraced their principles to a loftier plane than anything merely human had then devised. There are evidences in them all of something superior to man and adapted to the needs of the age and the people to whom they came; and no matter how much they have been changed by human additions or subtractions, enough remains of the original to exhibit traces of the Divine mind stooping to mortal capacity, for the purpose of elevating, directing and restraining men and women and guiding all to a better condition of existence in this world, preparatory to further advancement in a future state. Their power has been proportionate to their effects upon individuals and society in moral directions, and when these have begun to disappear, their vitality and force as religions have commenced to depart.

The modern attempts to separate religion altogether from practical, every-day affairs, to shut it out of education, business, society and politics, to make it a dreamy, airy, Sunday sentiment, are atheistical in their origin and detrimental to morality in their tendencies.

The world needs today a live, robust, energetic and potent religion that will permeate the whole nature of man and influence his every action. It must be for this life first, to prepare him for another by present conformation to the rules of right. Not something relating only to realms beyond the stars, but directing him in all that he does on this

earth. Not a system benumbing his energies or dominating his will, but quickening, inspiring, enlightening and prompting him as an individual and as a member of a family and of society, and leading him to the perfection of manhood in the proper exercise of all his powers, for his own advancement, the benefit of the race and the glory of his Eternal Father. "Mormonism" is such a religion, and it bears in its bosom the very life currents essential to a sound and practical morality.

A WEAK DEFENSE.

SO FAR as we have been able to ascertain, there has been no defense of the recent effort on the part of the Ogden Municipal Corporation—through its Liberal City Council—to seize certain property in that town belonging to the Latter-day Saints. The nearest approach to it in a public way has appeared in the *Ogden Union*, a small paper published there.

It is not a defense, however, being more in the nature of an attempted apology. It is, in substance, that the parties whom it is proposed to deprive of their property need not at this stage make an outcry and talk about robbery and stealing. They should, according to the paper we have mentioned, merely await, quietly and supinely, the action of the courts.

This is not defending the position. It almost amounts to an admission of the fact that the Corporation has no right to or claim upon the property in controversy. Indeed, it is impossible under the circumstances that it can have any such claim. Such being the case, the very best aspect of this affair places it in the light of vexatious litigation, which is contrary to the spirit and letter of all constitutional law.

An effort is being made to extenuate this high-handed outrage among the people abroad, or, rather, to create a prejudice that will cause folks at a distance to view it leniently. As evidence of this we here introduce a dispatch sent over the wires from Ogden after the action of the city council of that place, in which Mayor Kiesel took the initiative:

"The Mormons are somewhat excited over a movement inaugurated in our new Liberal City Council tending to wrest the so-called Tabernacle Square, one of the finest blocks in the town, from the grasp of the Church, which has been holding it. At present there are on

that block the old adobe tabernacle, the Third Ward meeting house and the foundation of a new tabernacle, work on which was abandoned, as the funds were required for lobbying in Washington."

To intelligent people the foregoing will tell its legitimate tale. It exhibits the fact that the Tabernacle Square is one of the finest blocks in Ogden. That it has been devoted to religious purposes by the Latter-day Saints is seen by the character of the buildings erected upon it and another in course of construction.

The excellence of the site has aroused the cupidity of the more "active politicians" of the Liberal party, who have concluded to make an effort to wrest it from the proprietors. In any part of the civilized world such an attempt to appropriate the property of a religious community, used for religious observances, would be denounced as a gross, intolerant and inexcusable outrage. Those who are not willing to so characterize it, on the ground that the Latter-day Saints are the intended victims, show the illiberality and contracted character of their souls; there is neither magnanimity nor justice in them. This effort on the part of the corporation through its Liberal Council not only contemplates the seizure of land many years since set apart for the erection of religious edifices, but would include as well the seizure and desecration of the buildings of that nature already on the ground. Villainy in that direction and a disregard of the rights of others could scarcely go further.

The concluding portion of the dispatch was intended, by creating prejudice, to take the curse off the proposed transaction in the minds of people outside of this Territory. We unhesitatingly characterize the statement it embodies regarding the use of the funds subscribed for the building of the new Tabernacle to be an unmitigated falsehood. Structures of this kind are erected by donations made by those belonging to the community which assembles within them for worship. This being the case, their construction is gradual, according to the ability of the donors who supply the requisite means. That any of the funds bestowed by the people for the erection of that building have been devoted to a purpose other than that which was contemplated is utterly without foundation. The statement was a contemptible untruth offered with the intention of palliating a piece of unadulterated villainy.

It is a somewhat healthy sign that