

for authority are so absurd and contradictory that it seems to me that a wayfaring man though a fool, need not be deceived thereby.

L. W. PORTER.

The claim that the Church was disorganized because the Prophet Joseph, its President, was slain, is as absurd as the ordination of his son by men having not the slightest vestige of authority. Even supposing they retained their Priesthood after being cut off the Church—its own impossibility—neither of them ever held the Apostleship and consequently could not confer it on another.

Every one who has read the order of the Priesthood in the Doctrine and Covenants with common understanding, can see that the Twelve Apostles are a travelling high council, a presiding quorum with power to set in order all the quorums of the Priesthood, their decisions as a quorum having equal authority with those of the quorum of the First Presidency. The Lord thus provided for the emergency likely to arise through the disorganization of the First Presidency, so that His word might be fulfilled, that His Church and Kingdom should not be prevailed against nor "given to another people," but that it might "stand for ever." The Quorum of the Twelve, of which Brigham Young was President, being appointed by revelation during the lifetime of the Prophet Joseph and sustained by the vote of the Church, naturally, by virtue of their calling, became the presiding quorum of council, and thus the Church continued unaffected, as an organization, by the death of Joseph Smith because it does not depend upon the life of any man. The same order was followed at the demise of President Brigham Young, and the Church has been established by the Almighty with a view to its perpetuity, being established on earth for the last time and for the dispensation of the fulness of times, to be thrown down no more for ever.

The statements of Mr. Sheen, although they convey nothing new, are here placed on record for the information of those who are unacquainted with the incidents relating to the organization of the bogus church popularly called "The Josephites." And any child, familiar with the revelations on the organization and government of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, can see the fallacy of the claims set up for the Piano leader, who has "not come in at the gate" in the way appointed, but has "climbed up some other way," and is joined with the enemies of truth to fight against the work which his father lived and died to establish.

#### THE DISPATCH FIEND AGAIN.

The Salt Lake dispatch fiend is at it again. Here is what he has telegraphed to the coast papers:

"Governor Murray to day received a certified copy of the law empowering him to appoint county officials in twenty-four counties and a territorial auditor and treasurer. The Mormon Church has signified its intention of fighting this law and disputing the right of the Governor."

This is the style in which Utah news (?) is frequently made up for the deception of the public. The two points made in this dispatch—there are only two—are each of them untrue and purposely intended to mislead.

The certified copy of the law does not specify any officials, county or otherwise, which the Governor is authorized to appoint. It makes no vacancies, but merely authorizes him to fill such vacancies as may have been caused by failure of the August election. If the failure of the election caused no vacancies he has no appointments to make. If the local laws already provide for a failure to elect, the law of Congress is superfluous. If there are any vacancies in consequence of the lapse of election, then the Governor is authorized to fill them and them only. The press dispatcher has undertaken to decide what offices are vacant and blundered in the effort, and has credited the law of Congress with his nonsense.

The "Mormon Church" has not signified its intention to do anything of the kind mentioned in the dispatch fiend, and he cannot point to an utterance of the Church of any kind on the subject. It is not a Church matter. If any dispute

arises over the question of appointments, it will be one for the courts to settle, and the fight will not be with the "Mormon Church," but between the claimants and incumbents of the offices in question.

Further, if any litigation should arise over this matter, the incumbents of the offices will not be fighting the law any more than the claimants. It is a wilful falsehood to say that any one is fighting the law of Congress in relation to this dispute. It makes a provision which is construed by different persons in two different ways. Neither party can be justly charged with fighting a law whose provisions all are endeavoring to have carried out according to its letter and intent as they understand it.

If men who are allowed to send messages for the press would relate the facts and leave out their own vain imaginings and absurd comments, the country would be the better for it, and newspapers would not be so much under the odium of unreliability. And if the Salt Lake dispatch fiend would quit lying when he sends abroad tidings of Utah affairs, he might save himself considerable suffering in the great hereafter.

#### AN ELECTION TO BE HELD.

If the Utah Commissioners delayed their coming, they went to work at once after their arrival. They held meetings on Saturday and Monday, and after thoroughly investigating the law and studying the situation came to the conclusion embodied in the following, which they furnished the press for publication:

Whereas, It is provided by the Revised Statutes of the United States (sec. 1862) that every territory shall have the right to send a delegate to the house of representatives of the United States; and as it is further provided (sec. 25) that such election shall be held in all the territories of the United States on the Tuesday after the first Monday in November 1892, therefore,

Resolved, That in order to prepare for such election in the territory of Utah on the day so established, the Commission will proceed forthwith to appoint registration officers to revise the registration lists now on file in the office of the clerk of each of the several counties in the territory in the manner required by law.

This is straightforward and sensible and shows that, as we anticipated, those gentlemen are disposed to carry out the law and not the private views of meddlesome persons who have undertaken to dictate what the Commissioners shall and shall not do.

It is not probable that in appointing the registration officers in the several counties everybody will be suited. It would be an impossibility to act so as to please all parties. We shall presume that the Commissioners will make such selections as appear the most suitable to them with the limited knowledge of men and the requirements of the case now at their command. The public should not be hypercritical, but give these officials credit for good faith and a desire to perform their duties as prescribed by law, even though persons may receive appointments who are personally distasteful to at least a portion of the community.

When the registration officers are appointed they should at once make themselves familiar with the requirements of the law in their case made and provided, which they can readily do by reading the local statute on registration. If they are guided by the law and not by personal or party motives, there will be no trouble attending the discharge of their duties.

We are aware that there are a few individuals in this community who look with disfavor upon the idea of an election in November. Why is it? Simply because they do not want to see the law of Congress carried out which gives Utah, in common with the other Territories, the right to a Delegate in Congress. They cry out against the "Mormons" as disregards of the law, but when it comes down to facts it will be found that these abused "Mormons," of whom it is fashionable to speak evil, have tenfold more real regard for law than any of their local detractors, who are the fabricators of the chief slanders that are taken up and repeated outside the Territory.

We hope the Commissioners will

proceed as they have commenced. That is, endeavor to carry out the law in relation to their duties irrespective of the schemes or speculations of any clique or party. The "Mormons," many of whom are marked as victims of recent legislation, will not complain at the impartial enforcement of the law. What they have had occasion to complain of in the past has been the illegal procedure against them in the name of law. The lawless application of statutory enactments. Persecution under the guise of prosecution. The perversion of provisions intended for one thing and construed as another.

The Commissioners, so far, have manifested a disposition to act fairly and lawfully and according to their lights. Of this we shall not complain, even though some things they do may press hardly upon our convictions concerning the rights of citizens and the privileges of the majority. Let obstructionists and "Mormon"-eaters do the growling. Nothing will suit them short of revolution in Utah, and the utter deprivation from every "Mormon" of the last vestige of political power, and the faintest whisper of a voice in the affairs of the Territory which they have built up from the sagebrush. Never mind; go on with the Delegate election.

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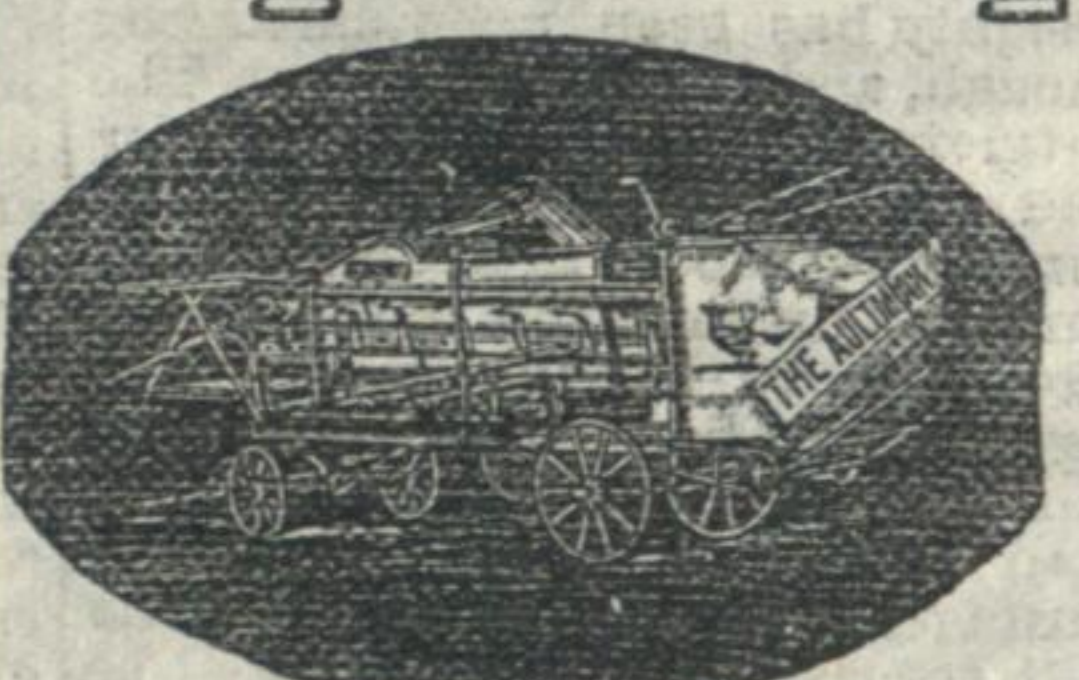
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