

Written for this Paper.

## TRUE AND BOGUS UNITY.

There is no community where unity is so persistently enforced, or advocated rather, as in this one occupying these mountains, and especially by the Latter-day Saints. That this is an element of strength is very readily admitted, though it may vary in character and degree; for it may be on essentials or otherwise, as it may be mechanical or under the control of general intelligence.

The ordinary army is an illustration of mechanical unity. It is without will as to its unity, and when it moves with the irresistible force of an avalanche upon an opponent, dependence is altogether upon the word of command. Its discipline is all aimed at the creation of subservency, without consideration as to the merits or demerits of the conflict in which these units are enlisted, and to which they are committed. And wars in the main are begun and carried out irrespective of any opinions held by the rank and file. Superior officers even may have no more personal idea or interest than the privates they command. It is to them a profession; they are "in the service."

In the Civil war which commanded the attention of the civilized world, there were tens of thousands no doubt, particularly foreigners, who knew next to nothing of the issues involved in that collision, although patriotism might have been in the ascendant in the hearts of the great majority. And it is not difficult to fancy that there was more heart and more sacrifice among the Southerners, as a whole, than in the North. Union, such as it was, is claimed to have been more complete among the adherents of "the lost cause," than with their rivals in "the tented field."

Another of the great features of our national life is the political one. Two great parties are arrayed against each other. Their forces are marshalled at the ballot box, and victory falls on one side or the other, as public sentiment is moved upon by the machinery of politics, rather than by the absolute intelligence of the masses on either side of the contest. For it surely is plain that where experts differ, little more can be expected of their blind and uninformed or half-informed supporters.

It is strange, to say the least, that neither national experience at home, nor national illustration abroad, has yet determined close enough to secure decision and unity on some at least of the famed questions which agitate the political mind. Surely everything is not simply experiment. Conclusions must have been reached through ages of experience as to whether certain methods are only expediency, rather than absolute truth. The difference is very small indeed between the moderate Republican and the moderate Democrat. It is where extremes exist, that partisanship runs riot, and anathemas are hurled *ad nauseum*, as if a Krupp gun had given the momentum instead of some political pantaloons whose sole aim was the spoils of desired position.

Public opinion is as volatile on business matters as it ever was on politics. For very many years, competition was said to be "the life of trade," as it was

also said to be for "the good of the buyers." Now there is scarcely a business of any magnitude that is not seeking deliverance from this long lauded principle, from sheer dread of its results, while the sugar and other trusts, organized for self-protection, are using a weathercock press in demonstrating that under such trusts prices have been gradually lowered to the consumer; it is wonderful how plausibly words are used "to make the worse appear the better reason," and how bogus beneficent unity can be so adorned as to be more attractive to the shallow thinkers which constitute the mass, than was the ostensible virgin of our fathers' times.

In unsophisticated Utah the voice of the siren Trust was lately heard around every flouring mill. Its mission was asserted to be "the good of the people," and every store has extolled the advantages of unrestrained competition. Sharp men have told of their ability in buying, plausible drummers have told of their ability to sell, until there is a species of unity established here beyond all controversy. That unity consists "in believing all things, hoping all things, and enduring all things;" a principle which has cost the populace thousands upon thousands of dollars in the aggregate, and filled every dealer's shelves with short weight goods, low grade goods, adulterated goods and trash in every department of supply.

Unity in securing the best was the old-time motto. Unity in buying and distribution was the principle once taught. But greed and sophistry have removed the old landmarks until the world is our business field. An enemy is transformed into a friend, for the value of half a dime or less and unity once so ardently courted and still ostentatiously praised, is disunited by the sham unity where "every man does that which seemeth good in his own eyes."

It may be said that unity is not expected even of this community save in religious matters. Setting aside the fact that this should be the stepping stone to all other unity, it may be said that sixty-five years has only produced uniformity of thought on a few things of that character; fundamental perchance and received as revealed, such as the advantages of and testimonies as to the value of faith, repentance and baptism; the object of gathering, the question of authority. The fact of inspiration and the need of obedience to proper authority are pretty well established at least in the hearts of the experienced. But there are vast divergences as to the payment of tithing, the order of Enoch, and celestial marriage. There are queries as to counsel in politics, as to the propriety of our trading, as to educational matters, as to our real need of home manufactures, as to the best methods of sustaining our poor, and whether a State government is the great boon of salvation of the entering wedge of further disintegration and assimilation with the world.

If there was the same tangible, practical unity in regard to these things that there is in regard to faith and baptism, there are no obstacles in the way of a unity as yet unthought of that could not be removed or easily brushed aside. The united will of Is-

rael, sustained of inspiration, would so transform all our deserts of inaction that each would bloom to luxuriant life, and make of the people a power which would be irresistible, because moving on revelatory lines; and a whole and warm-hearted people would be as fully informed upon the latter, and as decided in testimony thereof, as they now are on the primary principles of an accepted revelation—one beyond controversy and beyond dispute.

True unity secures true progress by virtue of a correct, because revealed conception of the "eternal verities," and an immovable determination to work under competent authority for the realization of this ideal; a unity based upon fancy, an obedience established only on a presumptive authority, can be but transitory. It will not endure. It will have no permanence. It is not founded upon the rock.

Hence some things have failed, have come to the birth and passed away. They were abortive because mechanical, and effected little because lacking in heart or soul. "My people shall be willing in the day of my power," said the Lord through His servant. "The signs of the times" denote the coming of that day. It is not deferred, and the thoughts and aspirations of many are being cultivated to an intelligent unity. These will know what they want—what the Lord wants. They will work as one man. They will overthrow obstacles and remove mountains. Politics, trade, religion will be suffused with new glory, will exhibit force and power; for a new life is to be revealed, new motives are to operate, a new spirit is to be received, and new results are to be achieved. Happy is the man, great is that people who, consciously or otherwise, is an unknown if patient, laborer in this grand cause. God is with him, the heavens are with him, the Prophets are with him, good men of this day are with him, the Church is with him, every quorum and every family who has a living member of the spiritual body are with him. All the prophecies and promises point that way—in the direction of triumph, though the details may be veiled from human vision. Yet, "it shall come and it will not tarry, saith the Lord."

## PIONEER DAY.

At Fort Herriman, on the 24th, was one of the best parades ever witnessed and also one of the largest. First a leader on horseback carrying the Stars and Stripes; at his side, also on horseback, was a beautiful young lady in white. Next came a carriage floely decorated in which the band did its very best. After this came the Pioneer wagon with genuine Pioneers from '47, carrying a banner on which was inscribed, "Representation of Pioneers of 1847." Then followed a lot of young Utah boys and girls on horseback; then hay wagons decorated and with banners reading, "Representation of Utah as it was and representation of Utah as it is," then came "Utah's Best Crop," which looked to be of the very best. Next followed wagons and burlaps en masse and at the end the Bishop following his flock to see that nobody got lost.