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Charles W. Penrose - Editor,
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READY TO RECEIVE LIGHT.

The notion prevails that the "Mormons" are so wrapped up in their own creed that they are not open to the consideration of anything else. This is a great mistake, for it is a principle of their religious system to receive truth from every source, and it is held that all truth in theology, in philosophy, in science, in art, harmonizes with it and becomes part of it by natural affinity. Nor are the exponents of "Mormonism" opposed to the advocacy of other creeds than theirs. They welcome the incoming of light from every direction and encourage its dissemination throughout the world.

It is true that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called the "Mormon" Church, claims to be the only religious organization on earth established by divine commandment and inspiration. Its doctrines, ordinances, ceremonies, promises, endowments, gifts and graces have come by direct revelation from on high. The authority held by its ministers has been brought from heaven to earth by angelic messengers, and it is exercised by divine appointment. In these respects it differs essentially from the various systems of Christendom and Heathendom. Therefore, when its ministers declare that there is but one true Church of Christ, and that other religious institutions are of men, they occupy a consistent position.

It is unreasonable to impute the strife, division, contention and diversity among the various religious sects to divine establishment. God is one. The Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost are one. They are Trinity in perfect and essential unity. They would not authorize one set of men to preach a given doctrine, another set of men to preach an opposite doctrine, and scores of other bodies of exponents to declare various tenets, to confuse, bewilder and divide the sons and daughters of the Most High in heterogeneous societies and establishments. While every human institution that is able to stand for any length of time possesses some truth, and may exercise in some degree an influence for human advancement, there can be but one true Church of the Christ, who is the Way, the Truth and the Life.

"Mormonism," using the term that has been invented by opponents of the religion which God has revealed in the latter days, claims to be of direct divine origin. It comprehends every principle of the Gospel made known in the opening of the Christian era. It recognizes all the truth which can be found in the various "Christian" sects and in those of Heathendom. It places no barrier in the way of the promulgation of the tenets of any society seeking the welfare of mankind. It has been placed in an attitude of defense because of the attacks upon it from most of those organizations, but it does not assail other institutions or other creeds. On the contrary, if they, either of them, have anything to offer superior to that which the Latter-day Saints have received, the Saints are ready to consider and accept it, if it is found to harmonize with that which they know to be the truth. If they feel compelled to reject that which appears to them to be false, they have no quarrel with its advocates or defenders, but recognize the right of every individual to believe that which recommends itself to his understanding.

This leads us up to the point which has recently been put forth as a new policy to be pursued in relation to the "Mormon" Church. That is, to use argument instead of abuse, reasoning instead of ribaldry, efforts at conversion instead of endeavors to break down and destroy. That is a new departure which will be welcomed by the Latter-day Saints. They are open to conviction, but it will take truth and light to convince them.

We do not know of anything held by the orthodox churches in Christendom that is scriptural and rational; that is not already incorporated in the "Mormon" faith. If there is, we are sure that our co-religionists will be found ready to accept it with pleasure. But in presenting it, its exponents must not begin by misrepresenting that which we do believe in order to influence us to accept that which they wish us to believe. They can explain their views and opinions and doctrines, and must then give us the liberty to accept or reject them as our reason and our consciences direct, and if we fail to see as they see, they should not become angry and vengeful and seek to bring down upon us the wrath of the ungodly or the curses of Christendom.

Frankly, we do not believe that any of the multifarious sects in Christendom have any new light to shed upon our "brightened" minds, as they may view our condition. We have sounded their theories to the depths, and have

not had very far to go in doing so. We believe all that they can tell us in regard to God and Christ and the way of salvation that is taught in the Bible, that being the only source they have for information on those subjects. And we believe in a great deal more concerning the Almighty and His ways and purposes than they have any idea of. Nevertheless, let them bring on their strong reasons and their evidences of superior light and knowledge and faith, and it will be found that the Latter-day Saints will not hinder their endeavors, but will gladly receive anything that will increase light in the world and help to exalt humanity.

AMUSING IGNORANCE.

According to our esteemed contemporary, the Boston Herald, both the Japanese and the Russians have now capitulated to the American girl, and gets the most out of the peace conference in social intervals, between the sittings of the envoys. This is an illustration of the facility with which international intrigues are disposed of by the charming diplomats. Says the Herald:

"They are as fickle as ever, for one day they are intensely pro-American and the next day they are talking of the progress made by the Japanese." What we want is control of Korea," announced one blue-eyed young thing in white organdie to half a dozen of her companions, after an hour's talk with a Japanese attache. She said: "What is on earth is Korean, and what is it?" queried the girl in the white duck suit.

"I think it's a railroad somewhere out by St. Louis," answered the girl from the West. "But won't it be lovely to get Sag Harbor Island from the Russians?" said a third.

"You mean Sakhalin," corrected the blue-eyed young thing in white organdie. "Don't you know that is a Russian prison under the Tsar's palace?"

This little bit of discussion of international affairs sounds childish, but not more so than some of the prattle that can be heard any day in this city, during the tourist season, between young ladies who favor the various points of interest here with their presence.

For instance a lady visitor last Sunday morning happened into the Assembly Hall. She was desirous of hearing "the big organ" and asked a lady what she could do. She was informed that the organ in the Assembly Hall is not "the big organ" that this celebrated instrument is in the Tabernacle, and that if she would attend services there, in the afternoon, she would hear both the organ and the famous choir. On learning this she was quite surprised, because—so she said—"Mormon" lady had just told her that the "Mormons" have Christ enclosed in the Tabernacle, and that the building, consequently, was not open to strangers. She was firmly convinced of the truth of this absurd statement, which, she probably had from some of the many who delight in deceiving inquiring strangers as to the conditions here. Some of our charming visitors are actually surprised when they discover that the "Mormons" have no mark—they used to talk about horns and claws—which they can be distinguished from other citizens. And this is an actual fact in this age of universal enlightenment!

But, no wonder! As long as unscrupulous individuals for selfish purposes, will promulgate falsehood about their fellow-men, some will always be found to believe it. And to many falsehood is easier to comprehend, and believe, than truth. The pity of it is, though, that persons so utterly devoid of knowledge of the subjects under discussion, consider themselves qualified to influence legislatures against the victims of their ignorance, and even guide the fate of nations. But for that the ignorance would be amusing.

VALUE OF THE ISLAND.
The island of Sakhalin, which is a bone of contention in the peace congress is said to have an area of about 25,000 square miles. It is therefore the size of Belgium and Holland together, but it has only 30,000 inhabitants, of which 14,000 are Russian convicts. The climate is severe and the natural resources are undeveloped.

But Japan wants the island. It stretches for a distance of 670 miles along the Siberian coast, from which it is separated by only a narrow sheet of water. From that island Russia's possible future exploits in the Pacific can be watched, and in a measure controlled.

The island is further said to be rich in coal and oil, while its rivers teem with salmon and the waters along the coasts with herring. It is said that the island in a single year has yielded \$1,500,000 worth of fish. These fishing grounds are of incalculable value to the Japanese, who use the fish not only for food but also to fertilize their rice fields.

Russia, in 1852, sent an expedition to the island, and gradually annexed it, in clear violation of the rights of Japan. It was regarded as a point of strategic importance, and Japan being too weak to fight at that time, yielded. In 1862 the Tokio government proposed to divide the island with Russia, but the suggestion was ridiculed. In 1875 Japan was forced to abandon its possible future exploits in the Pacific.

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