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GENERAL HAZEN AND UTAH.

This is the age of "reports." Nearly everything worthy of public attention and having a bearing on the general welfare is made the subject of investigation, examination, or inspection, by some person or number of persons, either officially, or self appointed; and in due time the public receive the fruits of their inquiries in published "reports." This subserves a general good. It lays self appointed or officially appointed servants of the public open to the criticism of the people; and however much they may disagree on particular items there are usually salient points and principles manifested in the subject of inquiry on which they all concur. So far, then, these reports are valuable in enabling us, by comparison if not by implicit acceptance, to arrive at an understanding of general points presented in the subject which has been the object of inquiry.

We have before us the Report of Brevet Major General Hazen on Utah and the "Mormons," furnished to the Hon. John Bidwell, of the House of Representatives. The gentleman, like Gen. Babcock, seems actuated, in a considerable degree, by a spirit of fairness, and gives his opinion of matters and things here apparently with much impartiality as he viewed them, though his deductions at times seem more the result of a certain degree of prejudice than of calm, logical reasoning. The General was here in October last. He commences his Report by giving a statement in round numbers of the increase of population here since the settlement of the Territory; the extent of country under cultivation; the probable amount of population that can be sustained; with other kindred matter. He characterizes the government in this Territory as a theocratic despotism, though the reasons why he thinks so are not given. Our extracts from the Report will be mixed with a few running comments. Of President Young he says:—

I found Brigham Young a man of remarkable shrewdness, administrative ability, and information. He watches closely all new-comers till he knows their purposes. The Mormon people believe him to be a true prophet of God; idolize him with a true devotion; would sacrifice all their earthly possessions and follow him pennyless to any quarter of the globe, or would commit any crime at his bidding. My interview with him was pleasant, he talking freely upon all his plans. He has the past season constructed a line of telegraph to every village in Utah, and is ready to build several hundred miles of the Union Pacific railroad. I also found his principal advisers—General Wells, Heber Kimball, and Q. Cannon—able and indefatigable men. I found at Salt Lake City about three hundred of our own people, whom they term Gentiles, nearly all traders. They had established a church, a newspaper, and a school; and I was informed at one time they exerted some influence there, but at the time of my visit they were broken up into several factions, probably brought about by the ingenuity of the Mormons, and their influence was scarcely perceptible. I notice since, the Mormon church has prohibited trade with them, and negotiations have been talked of to sell everything out to the Mormons, and leave the country.

This last sentence might, under existing circumstances be discarded; the "Mormon Church" has not prohibited trade with "Gentiles" as such; but the people have been recommended to not put weapons in the hands of their most bitter known enemies to be turned against themselves. By what logic the conclusion is reached, that the "Mormon people would commit any crime at the bidding of President Young" we fail to see. If it is because of their devotion to him, then there is a very grievous error in the premises, for their devotion is based upon their long knowledge of his virtue, goodness, fatherly kindness, care for the people and incapability to do or advise anything approaching to the appearance of a crime. But this as well as some other things in the Report, we presume is not the result of the General's personal observations, but gathered from some of those disinterested (!) sources, when so much "reliable information (!)" concerning Utah is obtained.

Another extract reads:—

The Mormons believe they are the chosen people of God—are His latter-day saints—that their country is Zion; and that they have a great and holy destiny; that our national troubles the past six years are punishments of God for persecutions of them; and that He will continue to afflict us until we are destroyed and they rule the land. This is preached to them every Sunday, (I heard it on two occasions,) and is believed by all, and has engendered in them the strongest hatred to our government. The curses of God are evoked every Sabbath upon the memories of Presidents Polk and Buchanan and Thomas Benton, whom they conceive to have been their special persecutors. Their temporal prosperity is a marvel. Their wealth commenced with the breaking up and withdrawal of the Johnston army from Camp Floyd by the orders of Secretary Cameron, which also directed the sale or abandonment of the property of the post. This resulted effectually in turning over to the Mormons some five or six millions of property. The discovery of the mines in the neighboring Territories soon after, and the quartering there of a volunteer army, have given such fine markets for their abundant surplus as to have made them in the aggregate very wealthy. *They are probably the most universally industrious and law-abiding people on the continent; drunkenness and theft are very uncommon. Crimes against us is to them obedience.*

The italics are ours. We do believe that the national troubles are divine inflictions, and it seems that Government has thought so too, or "Days of Humiliation" would not have been officially recommended. And we believe that those troubles will continue, not till we rule the land, but until the people repent and do right, and the iniquity which drew them down upon the nation has been removed. As for Polk, Buchanan and Benton, the gentleman and everybody else may be assured we hold them in too much contempt to keep their memories alive by repeated allusions to them. The last sentence is very difficult to be understood, after the ones which immediately precede it.

In reference to polygamy, he says that with a few of the wealthy leaders "the women do not seem to be utilized for industry;" "the poorer men had one, two or three wives, according to their means, and arrangement seemed to be almost entirely utilitarian." He says, "its efforts on cultivated society would be to degrade it, especially the women," which we think is a pretty strong assertion, on theory, and a more philosophic mind than Gen. Hazen's would be inclined to have the test of experiment before pronouncing so absolutely. That which follows is too grossly invidious: "But with the people of Utah it only appears to retard culture, they being originally found very low in the moral

scale." "We will take man for man, and woman for woman, with any other community, city or town in the world, and if the gentlemen can find another people so high in the moral scale, or more intelligent, individual for individual, then we will admit the truth of his assertion. But we know from years of experience, and from associations with the Latter-day Saints in this and in other countries, that morally they have purer instincts, a higher appreciation of virtue, and a stronger desire to encourage and practice purity than any other community upon the face of the earth. This is not spoken boastfully, but as an act of simple justice, to correct an incorrect assertion.

The General says we "are hospitable to all strangers, especially to government officials," and by so saying publishes a very severe comment on the ingratitude of those who have freely enjoyed our hospitality, and have taken every occasion to return the same by unjust abuse; more especially is it severe upon government officials, who in many, we might say most, instances, have manifested their reciprocation of our hospitality, by using their official influence to have us exterminated. After giving us credit for being an industrious law-abiding people, he offers the following curious suggestion:—

The murder of Dr. Robinson occurred while I was in Salt Lake City, and that of Brassfield some time previous. There is no doubt of their murder from Mormon church influences, although I do not believe by direct command. Principles are taught in their churches which would lead to such murders. I have earnestly to recommend that a list be made of the Mormon leaders, according to their importance, excepting Brigham Young, and that the President of the United States require the commanding officer of Camp Douglas to arrest and send to the State's prison, at Jefferson City, Missouri, beginning at the head of the list, man for man hereafter killed as these men were, to be held until the real perpetrators of the deed, with evidence for their conviction, be given up. I believe Young, for the present, necessary for us there.

Suppose the leading men in the several States and Territories were to be arrested and held in durance for the murders committed in the States and Territories to which they belong, how would the proceeding be relished? Several very large State's prisons would have to be erected; and very soon the leading men of the "Mormons" would be the only leading men in the country at large.

One other extract and we are through for the present:—

The government should be properly informed as to these people, hoping a remedy may in time present itself. I feel assured that no plan yet proposed will give to us a loyal Utah. The railroad will help and strengthen them in place of solving the question. It will make it more easy to bring forward converts, and will add ten where it enlightens one. There is a depth of ignorance there that will take many generations of light to reach far into. If we parcel out their Territory they will have their organization of the State of Deseret, with its legislature, which meets every year to act upon the doings of the lawful Territorial legislature. They are an industrious, agricultural people, and, in fact, do nothing for which war can be waged for their extermination, and they are too valuable a portion of the nation to destroy if they can be utilized; extermination cannot enter the discussion at our age of civilization. The theory that they will go to pieces when Young dies is fallacious; they will certainly provide for such a contingency. The same thing was believed when Joe Smith died, but look at the results.

We must defer further comment for another opportunity.

SPRING.—At last we seem to have reached spring. The storms appear to have passed away, a warm sun pours his genial rays upon the earth, and busy husbandmen have commenced their labors, preparing the soil for seed time.

THIRTY-SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.

The Thirty-Seventh Annual Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, convened in the Tabernacle, in this City, on Saturday, 6th inst., at 10 o'clock, President Brigham Young presiding.

There were present on the Stand, Presidents Brigham Young, Heber C. Kimball and Daniel H. Wells, the First Presidency; John Taylor, Wilford Woodruff, George A. Smith, Ezra T. Benson, Charles C. Rich, Lorenzo Snow and George Q. Cannon, of the Twelve Apostles; John Smith, Patriarch; Albert P. Rockwood, Horace S. Eldredge and John Van Cott of the Presidency of the Seventies; Samuel W. Richards and Edwin D. Wooley, of the Presidency of the High Priests Quorum; Daniel Spencer, George B. Wallace and Joseph W. Young, the Presidency of this Stake of Zion; Edward Hunter, Leonard W. Hardy and Jesse C. Little, the Presidency of the Bishoprick; Peter Maughan, presiding Bishop of Cache Co.; C. W. West, presiding Bishop of Weber Co.; with a large number of Bishops and leading Elders from various parts of the Territory. Reporters, David W. Evans, and Edward L. Sloan.

Choir sang "The Morning breaks."

President H. C. Kimball offered up in an impressive manner, the opening prayer; after which the choir again sang.

President B. Young gave as a text for the Elders, never to cease their efforts and their labors until the Latter-day Saints become of one heart and of one mind. Men pray for the Lord to protect us from the wicked; yet they will seek their society, trade with them and aid their influence, and thus seek to bring about the very thing which they pray God to save them from. The wicked have life and death offered to them, as the righteous have; and while they continue to reject the good, they are not fit society for those who desire to be sanctified before the Lord. A people can never become one while they possess the spirit of the world; yet the Latter-day Saints are to a considerable extent like the world, in matters of business and finances. The course of the world is for a few to obtain wealth, while the many are left in poverty; and they waste their wealth on their lusts, and in the gratification of their appetites and desires. Do not many here act in a similar manner? What has been the amount expended by the people here during the fiscal year ending to-day, for tobacco, coffee, tea and liquor consumed by this people? If the means so wasted had been saved for the past year, it would amount to a sum more than sufficient to buy the preemption right to the land claimed and taken up in the Territory, if a land office were established here at once. The people will become of one heart and one mind by practicing the principles of the gospel, and by living so that the spirit of revelation will be within them a continual preacher. We are progressing to this state of perfection; still, the labors of the Elders and of the people must be directed towards our becoming truly one in all things, that we may obtain the blessings which the Lord has prepared for His people.

President H. C. Kimball urged the imperative necessity of the Saints being in possession of the Spirit of God. The light of truth which it reveals shows us what we are, and gives us understanding to walk right before the Lord. We are of the earth, earthy; we have to sanctify ourselves and become pure, and teach our families to be holy in the sight of Heaven. Thirty-four years ago the Lord commanded the leading Elders among His people, and all the Church, to set their houses in order; and they who did not abide that commandment suffered the threatened penalty. The speaker inculcated the importance of our being self-sustaining in all things, obeying the Word of Wisdom, and with strictness and the utmost care keeping our children from acquiring the same injurious habits which many of us have learned from our forefathers. He recommended to encourage home manufactures, to buy "home-made" from those who make it where individuals do not make it themselves, and to live within our means, gaining strength, prosperity and power by wisdom and economy. He pointed out the folly of people thinking to obtain the blessings