



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

Thursday,.....June 28, 1866.

## MISTAKES AND CORRECTIONS.

It has become very common to misrepresent the "Mormons." Some do it through malevolence and from malignant motives; many do it because misinformed or uninformed concerning them, and they are consequently very liable to make mistakes when treating on the subject of "Mormonism." Much, very much that is reported concerning us, comes from bitter, unscrupulous and avowed enemies. Those who are disposed to calumniate the Latter-day Saints, give publicity to all manner of slanderous tales concerning them. This is very true, and we cannot help it; still we are desirous that truth should be known and fairly stated; and for this purpose occasional notice is taken of articles which represent unfairly, that the public mind may be disabused.

Recently the *Mining Register*, of Central City, Colorado, published a couple of articles concerning the "Mormons," the first of which iterates certain slanderous statements, which have had publicity given them in the outset by individuals who have been unscrupulous enough to say anything, no matter how untrue, that they imagined would operate against us. We give the editor credit for being misinformed for two reasons;—firstly, because he has evidently been misinformed with regard to certain historical items alluded to in the article; and, as a natural inference, may be supposed to be on the statements which are there made; and secondly, because the other article does us the justice of quoting from a leader in the NEWS and from a sermon published in its columns, both the extracts expressing our own views on the question of plurality of wives.

We will simply say, by way of information, that the "Mormons" settled in Kirtland, Ohio, moved from thence to Missouri, and afterwards settled and built up the city of Nauvoo in Illinois; and that they were driven from those places by mob violence, urged on by men calling themselves ministers of the gospel and by political intrigue. The priests who urged on the mob hated a religion which called upon men to preach the gospel "without purse or scrip;" and aspiring political demagogues when they could not secure the "Mormon" vote, thought they would prevent their political opponents from receiving it by stirring up the mob to drive them away.

We have never been "robbers and horse thieves." There are, most likely, evil disposed persons and individuals who are not honest in this as in every other community; but they are not held in fellowship by the Latter-day Saints. Our religion teaches men to be honest, honorable, upright and God-fearing, and does not countenance evil of any kind. When we came and located in Utah there was no "overland travel" to "prey upon," and if there had been, it is notorious that the "Mormons" are industrious beyond a parallel and live by their industry, not by preying upon any community, nor upon travel or travelers of any kind. So far from there being any overland travel to prey upon when this Territory was settled by the Latter-day Saints, the country was a

wild and unbroken one, where it was deemed impossible for white men to locate in any number, it being believed by those who were thought best able to know that the country where we now reside could not produce crops sufficient to sustain even the most limited population. There were no settlements in California at that time, and none further west than those which our people had made near the Missouri river. The gold discoveries of a little later were then undreamed of, and there was nothing to show that in the short space of nineteen years such an immense traffic would cross the plains as now yearly passes over them; nor that States and Territories would spring up so rapidly on the Pacific slope. We have dealt kindly, hospitably and fairly with the emigrant and the traveler, and too often have our kindness and hospitality been abused. But we did it and we continue to do it, for it is a part of our religion to deal justly by all men.

With regard to the Mountain Meadow massacre, to which allusion is made, we will simply say, that the "Mormons" have been ever anxious to have that matter thoroughly and honestly investigated; but those whose duty it was to do so, have, for reasons best known to themselves, declined to proceed in the matter. We think that they prefer allowing it to remain uninvestigated because it is the basis of an allegation against the "Mormons," unproved, it is true; and strict inquiry would remove the odium from the shoulders where it is now sought to be fastened. They may deem it better policy, on their part, to give the countenance of official sanction to that of which they are ignorant, than to inquire, and be compelled to deny a false allegation against innocent men.

Our moral and social status, notwithstanding all that is said about us, is at least as high, and many who are even prejudiced against us admit it is much higher, than that of the other States and Territories in the Union. And we can tell all who are interested in the Latter-day-Saints, that to-day, with all the efforts of "regenerators" to introduce the corruptions and evils of so-called civilization in our midst, there is less drunkenness, less brawling, less corruption, and less of those festering evils which sit like an incubus on the shoulders of the social body, to be found in this city and Territory, than are to be met with in any city of similar size on the continent, or among any similar number of its population.

Our objects are, to live to do good, and to do good to live; and this we intend continuing to do, with the aid of the Almighty, no matter what may be said or done by those who are our enemies.

## A GREAT CHANGE, YET A SAD ONE.

The world is growing like an old man who, becoming dissipated, rushes more deeply into the vortex of folly and sin than more youthful ones do who have the apology of young blood, hot passions and lack of experience to excuse their extravagance. Such a one, whose grey locks are darkened with hair dye, whose experience is smothered in superannuated folly, whose words, that should be full of wisdom and counsel, are sickening with their contemptible and silly aping of juvenile profligacy, is the best figure to which a world can be compared, that, after thousands of years' experience, grows daily and hourly worse, and leaps into a very abyss of madness, degradation and wickedness.

The growth of youth to manhood is so imperceptible to those who daily see it, that the change is rarely noticed; and it is only when memory takes a backward step, and sees the toddling child in the stalwart man of to-day, that it is fully realized. So the vast

change that has come over the human race can only be realized by a comparison of the past with the present. Let any person of middle age run back to the days of their childhood, comparing the world as it then was with the world as it now is, and how vast the change will appear!

The age we live in is spoken of as a go-a-head age. It is so called, and it merits the title. Half a century ago steam was comparatively unknown, and as a motive power had little more than come into existence. Now, steamships visit every clime, and the iron horse snorts and pants and tears along on the slopes of the Atlantic and Pacific, thunders through the old kingdoms of Europe, startles the dusky children of the far east, and threatens soon to invade every sacred spot of ancient Palestine. Then, the telegraph was unknown and undreamed of; now, it almost girdles the world; and men chain the lightning and make it their servant. But if the world has progressed rapidly in these and in many other things of much value and worth, it has taken fearful and rapid strides towards general degradation. The licentiousness of courts and the corruption of high places have taken root among the great people, and have thriven as evil plants do thrive. The people have left with a bound the slow movement and tardy progress of their fathers; but they have also left their horror of vice, their love of virtue, their value of human life, their hatred of meanness and their detestation of evil practices. Like the old roue whose experience only makes the enormity of his guilt greater, the world, with an experience of ages to guide it, is simply hightening its own culpability by the haste it is making to exceed every previous age in wickedness and guilt.

We have no idea of preaching, but of noting facts. The rapid growth of evil passions and their results are attracting attention everywhere; and in our capacity as a public journalist it becomes a duty to refer to them occasionally.

Men live in a fever of excitement. The mental powers are stimulated to an excessive degree of action. Mankind crave madly for the possession of wealth and power to gratify ungoverned passions and desires. They meet vice at every corner, bedizened and garnished with gaudy trappings, and they fraternize with it. They seem like an express engine flying down an incline without a brake on, rushing madly to destruction, yet reckless of the future, and caring only for the accomplishment of the present objects.

The rapid and serious change, now in progress, is indicative of an important future, not far off; and what that future will be it is not very difficult to deduce. If the world had leaped ahead, as if new life were infused into it, in moral and social advancement as well as intellectual and scientific progress, the result could not have been anything but gratifying to every friend of true progress. But instead, the mere perusal of moral and social retrocession, daily recorded, is sickening and appalling. There is no evil known to or practiced by human beings that does not seem to be hightened and intensified beyond the experience of any previous age. Greece, when the effulgence of her glory was dimmed by the corruption of her people; Rome, in the licentious days of her late emperors; the Court of England during the profligate times of the second Charles and the last George; and the noblesse of France previous to the great Revolution, furnish parallels in miniature. Every page of their history reads a lesson to the world to-day. Their career of vice was followed by terrible evils; and the deduction is only rational and natural, that, with the same evils sown broadcast over the earth, springing up in a thousand forms and in an

infinite of places, similar results equally wide-spread may be looked for. And with the lightning progress in those things which if rightly applied and employed would shed blessings unnumbered on the human family, but which abused only tend to intensify and expedite approaching evils, it is not unreasonable to think that these results are near at hand.

The news may be fairly expected to become regularly more exciting. Sensation will follow sensation; crimes be forgotten in others of greater magnitude; nine days' wonders become novelties rarely known; and the topics of yesterday scarcely remembered in others of deeper interest to-day. But in all this we may look calmly on, being assured that the end, however brought about, will be worked out for the best interests of the good among the human family.

## HOME ITEMS.

**SABBATH MEETINGS.** The congregation assembled in the Bowery, which had received its usual summer covering of green brushwood and boughs during the previous week.

Elder George A. Smith brought down his historical discourses to the Martyrdom of the Prophet Joseph and the Patriarch Hyrum. He reviewed many of the causes which, directly and indirectly, led to the sad result, and spoke at some length on the incidents connected with that time and event. His discourse contained many items of great interest to the Saints.

Afternoon:

Bishop John Sharp spoke of the blessings flowing from a faithful adherence to the principles of the gospel and careful obedience to the counsels of God through His servants; and bore testimony that the promises of the Lord to His people will all be fulfilled.

Elder J. F. Smith treated on the nature and magnitude of the work which the Saints are engaged in to combat sin and overcome evil, and the importance of their being fully alive to their duties. He reviewed our condition to-day, urged that all our energies should be devoted to serving God and seeking to overcome iniquity; and strongly advised the young particularly, and all generally, to keep the company of those who are the friends of God and truth, and who are striving to walk in righteousness before the Lord.

**THEATRICAL.** The indisposition of Julia Dean on Wednesday last compelled a change of performance on very short notice, and instead of *Thisbe*, *Stirling Coyne's* capital comedy entitled *Black Sheep* was substituted, being the first time it has been presented here. If any "hitches" were expected, or disappointment anticipated in consequence of producing a new play with such limited time for preparation, the disappointment was of a very agreeable character. The Association deserve a great amount of credit for the masterly manner in which it was performed. The entire cast sustained their characters with an ease and finish that is not often seen in a whole company. Messrs. McKenzie and Lindsay had the parts of Herbert and Mortmain, and played with all their usual care and vigor; Mr. Dunbar did the whining, rascally assumed philanthropist, and rendered the character to the life. We have never seen Mr. Graham show to such advantage as in *Shorter*; there was style about the character, and life. Mr. Woolley was a very good *Hard-pace*, and Mr. M. Foster made his debut on the boards here as *Smithers*. The ladies will please pardon our not particularizing them all. Their efforts were appreciated. Miss Adams won deserved applause as *Ethel Maynard*, which she played neatly and with considerable pathos. We hope *Black Sheep* will be repeated.

The Orchestra is rarely mentioned, yet it ought to be, for it discourses most excellent music. The *Satanella* Waltzes, arranged by Prof. Careless, and played between the pieces was a choice selection, and admirably executed.

*Bowl'd Out* concluded the evening's performance, in which Mr. Margetts played the lugubrious, super-seventeenthly and hypocritical scamp, *Yearner*; and Miss Alexander, as *Sarah Ann*, perpetrated some rather racy imitations. The playing in the farce was capital, and if a less lively piece had preceded, its success would have been unequivocal.

The playing on Saturday evening last in the *Ticket-of-Leave Man* gave much satisfaction. The play itself touches some salient points in the human character, as developed in many large cities of the world. The wiles of hardened villains and sharpers, to drag an unsuspecting victim down to their own level in infamy and crime; the struggles of the honest heart to burst the fatal web of circumstances cunningly and fiendishly woven about it; and the horror with which the convicted felon is viewed by both enlightened and degraded, however sincere his repentance and earnest his desires for reformation, are portrayed in a masterly manner. Messrs. McKenzie, Lindsay, Dunbar and Margetts as *Bob Brierly*, Dalton, Melter Moss and Green Jones more than equalled their previous efforts in those characters. Mr. Granam made a capital *Hawkshaw*, a part that affords scope for good acting. Mrs. M. G. Clawson's Mrs. Willoughby was as "talky" as ever and brought the house; Miss Alexander's Sam was a faithful portraiture of the London fast youth; Mrs. A. Clawson's May was artless and unaffected; and Mrs. M. Bowring's Emily St. Evremond was a successful effort.