

acclimated. The Elders have traveled both by land and sea to bring the people to the knowledge of the truth; they have preached and labored, they have consecrated themselves unto the Lord and to his service and trusted in him to back them up, and to enable them to meet all the opposition, all the contempt and scorn of a wicked world; those Elders have gathered up the Saints, brought them and placed them beneath the droppings of the sanctuary, and then after all this labor and sacrifice to save the people, many of them lose the Spirit, deny the faith and paddle off.

To take one view of the subject it would seem as if it was scarcely worth while for the Elders to spend so much time and labor for people, when we see them turn so soon away, after leaving far distant countries, forsaking their houses and lands, wives and children and after making all manner of sacrifices to gather with this people to the place appointed, as they say, to taste the words of life as they flow from the mouths of the servants of God.

I have come to the conclusion, however, that all will not obtain a celestial glory, no matter what we do with a design to save them; because they will not all hold out faithful to the end.

Notwithstanding this a good number will be saved, they will stick by and work out their salvation with fear and trembling, come what will, they will be spokes in the great wheel, and assist in rolling forth this kingdom. One soul of that description is worth seeking, worth going after, worth saving. Then brethren we must continue to labor for the salvation of souls, and that too without a murmur, knowing that it is a duty we owe to them and to our God.

I am aware of the idea advanced by some, that it is too tight a place for them, it is hard to get a living here. But after all they can say, it is a good country for Saints and we know it. We know hundreds and thousands who came here poor that are now, comparatively speaking, in affluent circumstances. They have gathered around them many things which tend to make life comfortable, and they will increase in the good things of life, and so will every man and woman who came here with honest hearts and who are determined to do the will of God.

Some say that the predictions of the Elders sometimes fall to the ground; others say that our authorities are tyrannical, and these are the strong reasons urged by apostates and by our enemies also, but these assertions are not proofs, they are simply the outpourings of angry feelings aroused, many times by disappointed ambition, at other times by a discontented, unbelieving apostate spirit.

Brother Candland has told us something about the nabobs of the old world, and it is true. Among the princes and rulers and great men of the earth, we do not find many who care for the comfort, happiness and welfare of the people. They want them to fight their battles, but have they any sympathy for them.

Is it so with our leaders? No it is not. They have tasted the very dregs of poverty, and they are prepared just like the Lord Almighty has been prepared to feel for the people; consequently they have sympathy and can look over the infirmities of the weak and they know how to succor them; they know how to counsel the honest in heart for their good.

I know that the words, the counsel and design of the servants of God are to do the people good; they have no object in view but to bless the people and to do them good. Are men oppressed here? I tell you if a man does good he is not oppressed, neither will he complain of oppression. Is there any oppression practised upon those that work righteousness? I say there is not. Is there not all the liberty that is necessary for any individual who wants to do that which is reasonable and just? Is there not all that any man or woman can ask for this side the veil? If we were in any other place and could have the same liberty that we now have, I presume nobody would growl. It rejoices my heart that we are here in these peaceful valleys, where we have liberty, and where we are permitted to breathe a free atmosphere, just as free as it flows from heaven.

There are no cramps upon this people only as they do wrong, and then as in other countries there are laws and regulations for the punishment of the lawless. What kind of men have they got to be who lead this people? They must be filled with wisdom, in order to teach the people the principles of righteousness and to avert the designs of the enemy. I wonder if the people appreciate the labors of their file leaders?

It is a fact that every thing they do, every move they make and every instruction they give is for the good, the comfort and happiness of this people, and for the salvation of all mankind, and notwithstanding this their lives are sought. It is no small thing for men to jeopardize their lives for others, for the salvation of the people.

In addition to this, see what care our brethren take of us, how they excuse and pass by our follies. They have taken us by the hand, notwithstanding our disobedience and neglect of duty, and have given us instructions whereby we may save ourselves. When it has seemed as if the Lord would cut us off, the Presidency have borne with the people, tried to mould them over, and it really seems as if they could never get through moulding them. But after all there is an increase of faith and good works, and the people are improving.

If I did not perceive an increase of good works I should be discouraged, I should think there was a slim chance of salvation. We do not of ourselves know how to obtain salvation. We are weak, liable to err, and we get up strife and contention with each other, and do many things that we ought to be ashamed of. Do our brethren bear with us? Yes they do, and I think their scourges and reproofs are very light and merciful.

I feel to thank my Father in heaven that we enjoy so free an atmosphere in this Territory

and that our principal men are men of intelligence and wisdom, men of mercy and compassion.

The kingdom of God is growing notwithstanding the numbers that are leaving, and it will grow and increase from this time forth and for ever. Many who go will do all in their power against us, but the work of God is onward despite of all opposition.

We are here in these mountains, and a few miserable apostates cannot do anything towards getting us out. Our work is not yet finished here, and the Lord will protect us until it is.

We possess liberty here that we did not possess in our former locations, and I am so satisfied with it that I do not want to go anywhere else, neither do any of the faithful Saints of God; they are satisfied to remain where they are.

I feel as br. Candland does, that I would like to see it grow ten or a hundred times faster, but suffice it to say that it grows as fast as it is consistent with the will of the Almighty, and He will take charge of it, so that it will bring about His own designs.

We look at the kingdom as it is, and it appears but very small compared with the kingdoms of the world, and it is but a speck compared with the inhabitants of the earth. We want to see the mighty armies of Israel increasing upon the mountains like flocks.

We have been taught so much about conscience, and its right to govern that we are apt to say, 'I wonder if this is right; and I wonder if br. Brigham has got a revelation.' We are apt to say, 'I must ask my wife about this, for I am afraid it is not right;' and we are all the time afraid of our conscience.

Although this is the case, we must not be alarmed, but do our best to root out every thing that is contrary to the principles of our religion. We sing "We'll mind what the prophets say," and if we carry that out in our lives we will find every thing to work right, and we will raise up boys here who will perform an important part in the great work of the last days.

I say let us try to profit by the experience of others, instead of being forced to learn everything by our own experience. I know this is difficult, and also that there is nothing that will profit us like our own experience. When we see men making fools of themselves, and making shipwreck of their faith let us be warned by their follies and learn wisdom.

I rejoice, brethren, that we are in a country with mountains so high and snow so deep that it is difficult for our enemies to get here; our location is so isolated that we cannot run every day to see our 'friends,' and I would be glad if it were as far again so that it would prevent hypocrites from coming here.

I am aware that many complain that wood is very scarce, and that the canyons are difficult to get into; yet it is all in a life time, and all we have to do is to do the best we can during our life, and to keep our conscience void of offence.

This country is so much better than I anticipated that I am agreeably disappointed. It is true that we could raise more potatoes and corn down in old Missouri than we can here, but when we had raised them we could not get anything for them, and therefore they were of but little use.

Some people actually think that they cannot live here, and honor their religion, but if you have any true religion, it is queer to me if you cannot live it here for the Lord knows we could not live it in the States, and it was for that reason we had to come away.

My religion embraces more than just praying and singing; it embraces my wives and children and all that I possess. Now if the whole of my religion is worth something that is heavenly and tangible would I lay a part of it down for anything that could be offered of a worldly nature? No, I would not, for we are here to establish principles that we could not establish among the gentiles, and this makes our enemies mad; they begin to see it now.

It is 'Polygamy' that disturbs them, and the talk all over the world is 'Polygamy and Governor Young.' Can they help themselves? No, they cannot, and I am glad of it.

We have nothing to do but to live our religion, take care that we do the very best we can, and keep the testimony of Jesus Christ within us that we may always retain a knowledge that this work is true; and with this see that we do no person any harm, but carry out the instructions of the servants of God.

May God add his blessing to what has been said that we may live for the reward that is laid up for the faithful, and may we bear in mind that we shall get our reward for what we do and no more: Amen.

WEATHERWISE.—I 'spose, Sammy, that we'll have a terrible rain in a day or two.' 'Why, mother, how do you know?' 'Gracious child! don't you know why? This is the 19th of September.' 'Well, what of that, mother?' 'Is that any sign that it will rain?'

'Why, goodness, son, of course it is! Didn't the master never tell you about these things. You see about the 20th or 21st of this month the sun gets up to the top of the pole, and then he begins to slide down again to the tropics of unicorn, then it o'lers rains like blazes, unless the horns of the moon git turned up and hold the water all in, and such cannot be the case now, for you see the moon has no horns but is in her muley state; so of course it must rain soon.'

If this stupid schoolmaster don't begin to larn you these important things I must take your education into my own hands. It is a great thing to have a good education, Sammy.'

RICH THEME.—The most fashionable religionist in California, one on whose ministrations the poor never have attended, announces that he will soon deliver a sermon on the "Miraculous Fish Draught." Does he mean that he will speak of the "cod fish aristocracy," which he hauls after him? Or, what?—[Sacramento Age.]

THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH & LIBERTY.



ALBERT CARRINGTON, EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, WEDNESDAY, MAY 20.

THE BIBLE IN UTAH!

Some person residing in this Territory, evidently inclined to be religious, and whose gift for seeing things that never existed is largely developed, in a letter dated at Salt Lake City, Nov. 3, 1856, and published in the New York Tribune of the 7th of February, has given a version of "the state of things in Utah" that Greely himself has some misgivings about being strictly correct, as the author was so anxious to say something unfavorable of the people here that he did not disguise the fact that he was much prejudiced against them.

As to the truth or falsity of his statements and conclusions those acquainted with the people and circumstances can judge; and if the writer expects to gain renown by such communications, the more he writes and the sooner they are made public the quicker he will ascertain the result.

There is one thing that attracted our attention in reading his communication, and that was the summing up of his conclusions:—"We want the Bible here, a free press, faithful missionaries, and a complete system of education," an old borrowed, stereotyped expression; to which he adds, "But these things cannot be had without a complete change in the administration of the laws and the entire separation of church and state."

What the writer has seen here to induce him to make such assertions to the world we are at a loss to conjecture, for every man, woman and child ought to know that the Bible has been introduced here, and that the American Bible Society, in its philanthropic zeal to supply every family throughout the length and breadth of the land with the printed word, have sent an agent here with cart loads of Bibles in various languages, and have maintained him here for a long time at an enormous expense, and that there has been no hindrance to their introduction nor to their sale or distribution among the people; but to the contrary every facility that could be asked has been extended to the agent that he might perform what he avowed he had come to do, that was to visit every family in the Territory to ascertain whether they had Bibles in their houses or not, and to supply the destitute by sale to those that were able to purchase and gratuitously to those that were not.

These are truths that no one dare or can deny, but we are sorry to be compelled to state that the expectations of the people have not been realized, for if even one ward in this city, where the agent has resided ever since his arrival last fall, has been supplied with Bibles or regularly visited by him, the fact has not come to our knowledge, and if he has ever been beyond the city limits it has not been reported to us.

If such is the way the Bible is to be distributed to the destitute in every city, town and hamlet in the United States only, it will cost millions of dollars, and take hundreds of years to accomplish it; and our letter writer will die and be forgotten long before any perceivable progress is made in the good work which has been undertaken. However, we do not believe that the American Bible Society has many such agents in its employ, nor that they maintain and support them in princely splendor as a general thing without their making any exertion to carry out the professed object of the institution; if so, it certainly has adopted a new plan of operation within the last few years.

In making these remarks we do not wish to be understood that the agent here has not done all that he was sent to do. That is a matter between the employer and the employee, and concerns only themselves. What we have stated are the simple facts as they exist. If the officers of the society have been deceived in the selection of an agent for Utah it is their misfortune; if they have not, it is their good luck; and in either event the truth will soon come to light, for if the agent has not done his duty, he will of course be called to account, and if he has, he will be lauded to the skies, and every subterfuge resorted to that can be thought of to justify him and them in the course that has been taken, the first of which will be, of course, that the leaders of the church were opposed to the dissemination of knowledge among the people, and that obstacles were

thrown in the way to prevent the circulation of the Bible among them, notwithstanding the truth is exactly the reverse as all very well know.

From the notice read from the stand in the Tabernacle, on the 30th of November, and published in the "News" of Dec. 10th, the public were led to believe that the agent had been sent here to distribute his Bibles and that he was going to commence visiting the people for that purpose immediately; but as soon as it was known that no move was made to distribute them in the usual way, as announced, they saw that the whole concern was a hoax and the distribution of the Scriptures in Utah by the Society's Agent a humbug; and every move made by him since has only served to make them believe that a more ridiculous imposition was never practised upon any community; and now to complete the farce, the Bibles sent out here at such an enormous expense to enlighten the benighted people of Utah are to be taken out of the Territory and the people left as they were before to grope their way to heaven as best they can, with no assurance that there will ever be another Bible sent here; and without missionaries, a free press and a system of education such as the Utah correspondent thinks are wanted here, but thinks cannot be introduced without a complete revolution of things, which by the bye will not be very likely to take place—the people will all go the pit, unless the Lord should enlighten their understandings and put forth his hand and lead them in the ways of truth and righteousness.

We are sorry to have the Bibles taken out of the country, though there is no doubt there were more here before the ones in question were imported than in all the other Territories put together, still there are some individuals and families who are destitute and would be glad to obtain a copy as they wish to treasure up all the good things possible, and especially "the law and the testimony" that favors their favorite institutions, and there is no compilation in existence more replete with it than the Bible.

We have been asked many times why it was that an agent had been sent here to circulate the Bible, containing as it did so many proofs in favor of polygamy, to which the religious world as a general thing were so much opposed. The answer given has been that the officers of the society were undoubtedly ignorant of its contents or they would not have sent out an agent to distribute it among the 'Mormons,' and for ought we know the agent has informed them that the 'odious' and 'abominable' doctrine of polygamy they so much detest is taught therein, and that he has been instructed to suppress its circulation, which, if so, will in part solve the mystery connected with his singular course since announcing his intentions to distribute them by visitation.

How much the farsical operation has cost the Society is not known, but judging from circumstances it must have cost a sum sufficient to have furnished every destitute family and person in the Territory with a good neat bound copy of the Scriptures, if that had been the object of those engaged in the enterprise and the money had been judiciously expended.

Since the above was in type we have received an announcement (published in another column) from which we learn the fact that Mr. Van Emman's term of missionary service in Utah is about to expire. That is news to us and presume it will be to the public. However, there is yet a chance for the destitute poor to obtain a copy of the "word of God" by calling at the places designated at any time during the next ten days, but after that the door will be shut, as we understand it.

This unexpected notice is rather too short, but there is an old saying that "it is better late than never," and we would suggest to the agent the propriety of his calling on the Bishops of the several Wards in the city immediately for a list of those in their Wards of the class pointed out in his advertisement, and then furnish each Bishop at his residence with the requisite number of copies to supply those who wish them.

A course of that kind would go far towards removing the prejudice that exists in consequence of the unusual course that has been taken, as the people view it. And should there be any left after supplying the destitute in this city, as it will hardly pay to take them back to the States, where the "Word of God" is so very cheap, we would further suggest that he might leave them with Bishop Hunter for the benefit of the destitute in other cities and settlements of the Territory, if they are not excluded by his instructions.