

gallows upon which to hang Mordecai. When he communicated to them how he had been humiliated by having to do Mordecai honor, they said, "If Mordecai be of the seed of Jews, before whom thou hast began to fall, thou shalt not prevail against him, but shall surely fall before him." This has been the fate of every man, without exception, it may be said, who has fought against the Latter-day Saints.

We have not lived long enough to see so conclusively the reaction which will inevitably follow the present assault. But it will come as surely as the others came. In time it will appear that the machinations of the adroit and scheming leaders of the opposition today are as transparent and indefensible as have been all that preceded them. Abolitionism, theft, exclusiveness, unholy unity, rebellion, licentiousness—these have all had their day and would fain be forgotten by those who once believed, or affected to believe them true against us. Treason and enmity against the union are soon to follow—for they are false as any that have preceded them. Then there may be opportunity for the exercise of further ingenuity in framing accusations, for such accusations do not, as we have seen, wear long. But if we have no other reliance for the future than is supplied by the lessons of the past, we may feel assured that we will come out better, greater and more prospered after each successive trial. We possess qualities which have made us remarkable. We were distinguished for them fifty years ago, and we still retain them; they have neither been modified nor obliterated by persecution, poverty, exile, nor the great variety of afflictions which we have been compelled to endure. We have been distinguished for our profound reverence for the Deity, for an abiding loyalty to the Constitution and the flag—a loyalty which no persecution or wrong has ever been able to extinguish, or even to disturb. We have had a high conception of the rights of man, and have not been excelled in this generation for our frugality, our temperance, our industry, our perseverance, our honesty, our virtue, our hatred to vice in every form, and to litigation and violence. These characteristics, as long as we remain true to our religion, will always be ours, and a people possessing them must become a power in the earth. Nothing short of our entire annihilation can keep us down.

We have been the pioneers in western civilization. About forty-

five years ago we were compelled to leave the cities and pleasant places of our race, and launch forth into an unknown wilderness. From that day until the present we have been the pioneers of the regions where we settled. We carried with us the printing press. Among the first buildings erected by us have been schoolrooms. The first American paper published in California was issued from a Mormon press. The first farming operations performed by American labor there were carried on by the Mormons. The first gold discovered in California, which has created such a revolution, was dug by Mormons. We are the first Anglo-Saxons who have practiced irrigation. We came to Utah as religious exiles. We came here with a determination to make it our home, because we desired to be where we could worship God according to the dictates of our own consciences, undisturbed by mobs and religious bigotry. California presented many allurements; but we preferred the poverty and hardships incident to the settlement of this Territory, to going to a land where wealth could be acquired with such ease as in California. We loved these mountain valleys; we became deeply attached to them, because they proved a refuge to us at a time when we were sick and weary and tired of the persecution which we had been compelled to endure at the hands of our fellow-citizens.

In the industrial world today we are quoted as an example to all communities. No spot on the continent is fairer to look upon than the territory which our labor has reclaimed. Our cities and towns are desirable in the eyes of all comers, as pleasant places for residence and secure fields for investment.

How different it is with the spots we once inhabited and from which we were driven! If the thrift and industry and perseverance of the Mormons had been permitted to enjoy a fair field for their exercise in Missouri, how different would have been the history of that State! Our lands under the highest state of cultivation would have become of exceeding value. The same may be said of Illinois or the portions which we occupied. The city of Nauvoo was beautiful for situation. It was of more importance at that time in many respects than Chicago; its natural facilities were very great, and were we still occupying it, it is doubtful if a more beautiful or more prosperous city could be found within the boundaries of the Union. But a blight has fallen upon it. It seems

as though the curse of God had rested upon all the prospects and expectations of those who hoped by driving us out to possess and profit by it. The very bricks which our people had made and with which they had built their residences and public buildings have been shipped away to other towns. In visiting it as I have twice since our expulsion, it seemed to me that I was never in a place where I felt desolation as I did there. It would be the same here if the same fate were permitted. If it be possible to conceive of the Mormons abandoning for any cause these valleys, no matter how much man may think differently, the same desolation would follow. It would not be long before land would be of no value, if those who coveted and envied us our homes were to thus come into possession of them.

Today our fair fame is untarnished by dishonor. In the commercial world our credit is of the highest. We can be trusted in financial circles because we always fulfil our obligations. Merchants, bankers, business men of all parts of the country yield us freely this praise. The experience of all who have dealt with us has been that there have been fewer losses from dishonesty, from failures, from unwillingness to pay debts, among the Mormons than in any community in the land.

In the social qualities of peace and good order we have no equals in the world. Apart from the offenses defined by special enactment to meet our case, an infraction of law by a Mormon is of rare occurrence. The criminal records show that with a large majority of the population, we furnish but an insignificant proportion of the offenders. This same is true wherever our people are. Within a few days we have had an interview with Clarence W. Ashford, Esq., the attorney-general of his majesty, King Kalakaua, of the Sandwich Islands. He stated that no member of the Mormon Church or colony on the Sandwich Islands had ever been prosecuted during his term of office for a criminal offense. He spoke in the highest terms of their peace and good order, and the reputation which they had acquired for other high qualities among the residents of that group. While outside of the Mormon colony the Sandwich Islanders are rapidly decreasing, there they are steadily increasing in numbers, due to the lessons of morality which they are taught. Wherever our missionaries have gone, these have been the fruits which have attended their labors.

Industrious, moral and God-fearing at home, and valiant and respected abroad, they have held the attention of the world for fifty years. They are still quoted and observed by influential men of every class and clime. With the virtues they have shown, and the record they have made, it is not easy to blacken their character and ruin their prospects. We have seen that robbery, falsehood, driving, murder, have all tried it in vain.

The future will have its own history. It must write it in its own way.—*President Geo. Q. Cannon, in Salt Lake Christmas Herald 1889.*