

A MENDACIOUS IMPOSTOR.

ELDER ALBERT MERRILL, SEN., writes from South Norwalk, Connecticut, under date of the 18th instant. In his letter he gives an account of what he heard on the day previous at the Episcopal Church, South Norwalk, from the "Reverend" George W. Foote, missionary from Salt Lake City, Utah:

"In order," he writes, "to convince the congregation of his pressing need for money, Mr. Foote said his Church was the only Christian Church in Utah; and he with his little flock had waded through persecutions which the Mormons had heaped upon them. He had established a Church at Corinne, being aided by the pious people of that place. In that pious town, where the gospel and civilization had taken deep root, the people had built a meeting house, in which he preached; but it was without doors and windows, and his desk was a dry goods box; the boards which served as seats he had picked up in the streets. The prospect that the Mormon community would soon be broken up caused him to rejoice; for he anticipated, as the result of such an event, a glorious harvest of souls; and if any of his hearers would give forty dollars to school a poor Mormon orphan one year, he would keep them informed as to the progress made in education and morals, etc.

"He is lying for money with which to build a church when he returns to Salt Lake City. According to his own account, he has collected \$13,000. He said the poor women who are leaving polygamy come to him with their children so fast that he needs more money to feed and clothe the poor innocents, as he is the only Christian minister and his is the only Christian church in Utah. When the Cullom bill shall pass he hopes that the rest of the women and children will be free to come to him. Turning his eyes heavenward, and squeezing out a few tears, he appealed to the ladies first. They, moved to pity, came down with their greenbacks, the sight of which caused a change in the countenance of that lying missionary."

This is the second statement which has been published in our columns concerning the preaching of Mr. Foote. The first was contained in a letter from Elder Joseph C. Rich, written from Philadelphia, in which he described, in graphic language, the character of the discourse delivered by this "missionary from Salt Lake City, Utah." Both these gentlemen are well known in our community. Their testimony cannot be impugned, or even doubted. Mr. Foote has certainly made the statements which we print. Need we say to our readers, those who are not Latter-day Saints, as well as those who are, that his sermons, as reported, are a tissue of unmitigated falsehoods? Every resident of this city knows that his statements are utterly false. In making them he has been prompted by the basest and most despicable of motives—the hope of gain. What cares he if violence should occur, and the people of this Territory be haled to prison, be despoiled of the hard-earned fruits of their toil, or be killed, if he can only draw money from the pockets of the people, to whom he relates his untruths!

So infamous a creature as he has proved himself to be is far beneath contempt. We would not notice him, only we deem it but justice to the community and to the world at large, that his true character should be known. As for his lies they will hurt himself far more than they can the people against whom they are aimed. If he values himself so cheaply as to be willing to sell himself to the devil for the paltry sum of \$13,000, it is his own trade, and we suppose we have no right to interfere; but some hot day he will rue the bargain. He will find he has fallen into the hands of a master who never yields a point.

THE NEW TABERNACLE.

THE addition which has been made to the New Tabernacle by the construction of the gallery, has effected a great change in the appearance of that remarkable structure. To our eye the gallery has the effect to lessen the vastness of the building and to diminish the apparent height of the ceiling. But it gives a completeness and finish to it that we admire. Standing at the Eastern end of the gallery, the building loses none of its immensity by the erection of this addition, on the contrary, we think a better idea of its proportions is obtained from that point than before. The general opinion is that the construction of the gallery will improve the acoustic qualities of the house, and that the congregation will hear distinctly in every seat; but should this not be the case, there are other improvements, which time did not permit to be made before Conference, that will correct any defects of this kind that may

still exist. We venture the opinion that, before it is finished, its acoustic properties will be superior to those of any large building in the United States, as it already is the largest auditorium of which we have any knowledge.

The gallery measures in front, from one end to the other, 395 feet. At the back it is probably about 500 feet. It is about thirty-two feet in depth. It is supported by seventy-two columns. There are six stairways—two north, two east and two south. The seats at the present will be mostly temporary, there not being sufficient time to construct the others before Conference. The gallery will seat 3,000 persons, which will afford, in the entire building, sitting accommodation for 11,000, and standing room, in addition, for between 2,000 and 3,000, making the total capacity of the building between 13,000 and 14,000!—clearly exhibiting what a united people can accomplish under wise guidance. Steps will be taken to select a corps of door keepers, and deacons to seat the congregation. In the body of the building the people will be seated as formerly; that is, the ladies in the centre seats and the gentlemen on the side seats. In the gallery, the ladies will occupy the north and the gentlemen the south side. Those who take seats in that part are requested to observe this regulation.

It is the intention to have the New Tabernacle thrown open for worship at 2 p.m. on Sunday next, and it is hoped that there will be a large attendance. A small congregation would almost be lost there; besides, it will offer a good opportunity, before holding Conference, to ascertain whether the addition of a gallery has corrected any defects in sound that formerly existed.

On Thursday next, the 5th of May, the adjourned Annual Conference will convene at 10 o'clock a.m. in the New Tabernacle. It is anticipated there will be a large attendance of people on that occasion. We scarcely think there need be any fear entertained of lack of room, though there never was a time in the history of the Latter-day Saints—no matter how large the building might be which they had to meet in—when the people could find sufficient room to hold their conferences. It would be a grand and very pleasing sight to see the New Tabernacle filled to its utmost capacity.

"Rev. O. B. Frothingham, of New York, yesterday preached that Congress had no more right to interfere with polygamy than it has to prescribe limits to Protestantism or interfere with Catholicism. That is supposing, as the *Republican* does, that Mormonism is a religion, which it is not in any sense of the word."

The above is from a recent number of the *St. Louis Tribune*, and shows, as well as any thing can do how ignorance or prejudice, or both combined with egotism may concentrate in one individual.

The editor of the *Tribune* says that "Mormonism" is not a religion in any sense of the word. Now to any and all persons the least cognizant of the facts in relation to "Mormonism" and the "Mormon" people, the ignorance of a person deliberately making such a statement could not be made more apparent. If religion consists, as all will admit it does—in recognizing the movements of the Supreme in all events, and in constantly endeavoring, every day of their lives, to honor Him by keeping His commands, then the Latter-day Saints or "Mormons" are the most religious of all people, and "Mormonism" is essentially and truly a religion par excellence.

We have said the ignorance of any person could not be more apparent than by making such a statement as the above of the editor of the *Tribune* in reference to "Mormonism;" but in his case there is reason to believe that the ignorance is only assumed, and that his statement springs more from prejudice than ignorance, for we have before seen in his paper this same illiberal, narrow and un-Christian spirit manifested towards "Mormonism." If, however, our cotemporary be really ignorant of the subject of "Mormonism," now so prominently before the nation, as he seems, he has certainly mistaken his vocation in assuming the editorial duties of one of the principal journals in one of the chief cities of the nation. And if, as we presume, his assertion springs from prejudice, a man who can be so strongly biased is unfit to occupy the position of a public journalist; and the fact that such men do occupy such positions is a frightful source of evil to the country, for the wide-spread dissemination of their jaundiced views helps to manufacture an incorrect public opinion, than which a greater evil can scarcely be committed.

But if ignorance and not prejudice, be the parent of the sentiment in the *Tribune* respecting "Mormonism," the egotism of its author is amazing.

The converts to "Mormonism" in this Territory are not much fewer than two hundred thousand. The sacrifices and trials they have endured in the past are too well known to need recapitulation here; and the constant stream of vituperation directed against them, and the proscription and outlawry with which they are now threatened afford unmistakable proof that the "Mormon" people regard it as a religion, and upon them its claims as such are of the most powerful character; for nothing but religion—which has ever the strongest hold upon the human heart—would induce a people to endure what they have endured. Yet in the face of all this, here is a gentleman, connected with the press, who lets his egotism so far transcend the boundary of common sense as to pronounce "Mormonism" not a religion "in any sense of the word."

We advise our cotemporary to become better posted, or to free himself from this prejudice, before he undertakes to pronounce an opinion in relation to any subject towards which he feels antagonistic. Such exhibitions are pitiable from any source, but they expose a public journalist to contempt, and are more inexcusable from such a quarter than from any other.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM TUESDAY'S DAILY.

COMPLIMENTARY PARTY.—A social entertainment was, on Friday, the 22nd inst., given by the members of the Female Relief Society, 15th Ward, complimentary to Bishop R. T. Burton, lately returned from a mission to the East. The officials of the Ward were invited. The whole affair was a very pleasant one, and highly appreciated by those present. The hall was nicely decorated and a sumptuous supper prepared for the guests. We have received a programme of the entertainment—which consists of addresses, songs and recitations, and some verses dedicated to Bishop Burton, which we would be pleased to publish, but our space will not admit of our doing so. The Bishop is well worthy of all the esteem and respect that are manifested towards him.

SUDDEN DEATH.—A man named Wm. Chevallier, who resided in the 16th Ward, died suddenly this morning. Last evening, after performing his day's labors, he was taken with a pain in his side; he did not, however, consider it to be sufficiently serious to require medical aid. This morning he started from home to obtain medical advice, and had only got about two blocks from the house when he dropped down insensible. He was carried to the house of Bro. John Ames where he expired in a few moments.

GEORGE FRANCIS TRAIN.—The indefatigable G. F. T. is still "alive and kicking." He has lately been regaling New York audiences with his anti Dickinson lecture of "Blackened Sepulchres," as a branch of which subject he introduced his "defense of Brigham Young."

MAZEPPA.—Leo Hudson's famous mare, "Black Bess," arrived by evening train, yesterday. It is said to be one of the best trained horses in the world. Its owner will, next week, make her bow before a Salt Lake audience, and appear in some equestrian performances.

INDIANS UNITING.—The Elko (Nev.) *Independent*, of the 16th instant, says:

"For several days past there has been a large gathering of Putes and Shoshone Indians assembled in Winnemucca, and their deliberations have resulted in a union of the two tribes. Natchez was chosen as Big Chief of the new nation. The important event was duly celebrated with songs, dances, bonfires and Indian revelry of the most approved kind for several nights."

The same paper of the 20th inst., contains the following account of the remarkable preservation of a "Mormon" family:

"Last Sunday night a Mormon by the name of Bell, with a family consisting of a wife and three girls and a boy, came into Deeth, a railroad station about thirty miles East of Elko. It appears that Bell left Duck Valley, near Mountain City, twenty-one days before, with five horses and his family for the Mormon settlements by a cut-off trail through the mountains. Grass was short with him as it has been with many others in that section during the past severe winter. On starting his larder consisted of a few pounds of rice, and when out three days a terrific storm came up and he was compelled to lay up for several days. To return was out of the question, and his only safety was to press on to the line of the railroad. His supply of rice gave out and he killed a horse, on the meat of which the family subsisted until they reached Deeth. Were they ordinary mortals not inured to the hardships of border life they certainly would have perished. Twenty-one days on horseback and rice in mid-winter is a terrible ordeal to go through, even for the

strong and hardy mountaineer, but when women and children undergo it, it is a matter worthy of record. On their arrival they were healthy and well, and made no grievous complaint of the trials they had passed through. Bell says he never will be caught out of Utah when he gets there again."

FROM WEDNESDAY'S DAILY.

BOUNTIFUL DRAMATIC COMPANY.—Bro. Phillip Margetts, returned two or three days since from a visit to Bountiful, called in to-day. His report of the Bountiful Dramatic Company is very flattering. On the evenings of Wednesday and Saturday, last week the "Charcoal Burner" was played in good style, to crowded houses. Bro. Margetts says there is talent there, which a little culture would make quite a clever little company. The building in which their entertainments are given is convenient, and tastefully fitted up, and their wardrobe and appointments are creditable.

A MESSAGE WAITING FOR HIM.—There is a message at the W. U. Telegraph office for John P. Vanvalkenburg.

BURIED ALIVE.—A few days since, a man named Charles Clark was working in what is called the Lucern mine, Lower Gold Hill. The bank under which he was at work caved, and buried him alive. Fortunately, the earth which fell on him was of a clayey consistency, and came down in chunks, so that he was enabled to breathe from the admission of air through the interstices. It took eight hours hard digging, by several men, to extricate him from his perilous situation. Strange to say he received no permanent injury from the accident. We learn the above from the *Gold Hill News* of the 21st inst.

FROM THURSDAY'S DAILY.

NOTICE TO PRESIDENTS OF SEVENTIES.—President Joseph Young, Sen., wishes all President's of Seventies' Quorums who desire to obtain licences, to apply for the same during the coming General Conference; and at the same time they may obtain any word of counsel they may desire in respect to them. Presidents not attending Conference can have licenses transmitted by post, if they desire to do so, by making written application for the same.

INFORMATION WANTED concerning John Smith, who emigrated from Prestonpans to St. Louis, Mo., in 1853, and thence to Utah in 1855. His nephew, Nicol Hood, of Calderbank, Scotland, wishes to communicate with him on something of importance. *Mill. Star*, April 5th.

DIED.—At Aberdare, Glamorganshire, March 21, David Elias, son of Joseph T. and Eleanor Davis, aged 1 year and 7 months.

At Hyson Green, near Nottingham, March 31, Eliza, wife of Thomas Jones.

At Banbury, Oxfordshire, March 15, Elizabeth Kilpack, in the 69th year of her age.

At Arnold, near Nottingham, March 30, Mary Ann, daughter of Sarah Martin, aged 1 year, 5 months, and 26 days.

At Rutherglen, March 17, Elizabeth, daughter of William and Margaret Moyes.

At Aberdare, Glamorganshire, March 28, Johanna, daughter of Thomas and Margaret Werret, aged 1 year, 4 months and 7 days.—*Millennial Star*, April 5th.

A SAN FRANCISCO SCRIBE CHASTISED.—The *Ogden Junction* of the 27th says, that a Mr. Scribo, connected with the San Francisco press, has been staying at the White House, Ogden, for some days past, and during that time has not behaved himself so as to honor the profession, in fact, he had been drunk most of the time. Last Tuesday morning, after being out all night, Mr. Scribo returned to his hotel, drunk, dying for a fight, talked about pistols, and used any amount of profane language. The proprietor of the White House, enraged at his unbecoming conduct, gave him a blow with his fist, which knocked him out of the doorway, and his nasal protuberance coming in contact with the gravel received a severe cut. A doctor was called in to repair the damages to the injured proboscis, and the Alderman gave the fine to the affair, by fining each of the belligerents \$10, and assessing each with half the costs.

The *Junction* thinks this would have been a fine opportunity for a "Mormon outrage," but fortunately in this case the proprietor of the hotel is not a "Mormon." We think this is somewhat of a pity, for drunkards, notorious characters and such are generally the ones who become most indignant at "Mormon immorality" and "outrages"; and to a man of Scribo's turn such an adventure would have furnished a rare amount of capital stock, and been worth ten times ten dollars. But then, Scribo may turn it to account, after all, for everybody does not know that he is a drunken ill-behaved scamp if the people of Ogden do. So go it Scribo!

SERIOUS FIRE.—The *Colorado Tribune* of the 22d says:

"A very serious fire occurred six miles down the Platte yesterday at Dr. Singler's farm, burning his barn, two fine mares, all his farming implements, 2,000 bushels of grain, and all his hay and straw."

The cause of the fire was not discovered.