

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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NOT PLENTIFUL.

A REMARK recently made by a highly esteemed friend has reached us. He thought the News might profitably devote a little more of its space to literary articles favorable to the community, written by non-"Mormons."

We agree with the idea so far as the pleasurable and profit of giving publicity to productions of that kind through these columns are concerned. To say that the News has not been slow to perceive the propriety of pursuing the line of policy indicated by this friend scarcely expresses the eagerness of our desire to place before our readers fair and honest expressions from outside sources upon the "Mormon" question. They are aids to our own efforts to present the truth and expose the sham, hypocrisy and unmitigated lies of those who array themselves against an innocent and apparently defenseless community, and help to strengthen our position. But alas! we are confronted with a formidable difficulty, which appears to be increasing daily if not hourly. Where shall we find articles of the character to which our friend referred? From what source shall we obtain expressions of a fair, kindly and honorable character, either of tongue or pen, in relation to what has assumed not only the prominent position of a national question, but a subject that, as the lump is being leavened, will become a subject for the consideration of the world.

So far as this country is concerned, in reference to the Latter-day Saints and their religion, the era of reason has departed. There is a rapidly diminishing disposition to investigate the question, lest its favorable aspects be discovered, while nearly every statement, no matter how false, and even upon its face absurd, is credited, its only recommendation to reception being its opposition to the "Mormons."

The effect of all this is that there are few men who have sufficient independence of character and strength of will to tell the truth about the Latter-day Saints and their institutions, and it is almost like hoping against hope to expect justice from any earthly source.

Attempts from non-"Mormons" to explain the subject without bias or bitterness, are exceedingly scarce. The pulpits do not supply them, and to hunt over the journals or periodicals of the country in quest of them is similar to search in a mountain of putrid rubbish to find a diminutive gem. Occasionally a literary diamond of the kind desired is discovered, and we give it further publicity through our columns. Of this class was a recent paper on the anti-"Mormon" raid from the facile pen of "A. E. G." of Hyde Park, Mass., but such an article is seldom seen and, compared with the flaming sensational falsehoods on the other side, it is like an oasis in a thirsty wilderness. It is a notable fact, too, that articles such as his are never replied to. He places the truth in such an unanswerable light that the anti-"Mormon" scribblers who dip their pens in the ink-bottle of bigotry consider it the better plan to pass by such arrays of fact and logic in silence.

Under the circumstances one appears forced to reply to some of the multitude of Munchausenish statements made by the enemies of the Saints, exhibiting the truth as clearly as practicable and their contemptibleness and corruption at the same time. Those employed in that undertaking occupy a position next in point of isolation to just and fair expressions from outside sources. It is up hill work, and perhaps they are entitled to a degree of sympathy and encouragement that the public may not be overwilling to accord. A man who is engaged in defending this community and their institutions and in exposing the hypocrisy, hollowness and deceit of their enemies under existing circumstances, appears like one standing on a rock in mid-ocean, shouting to the angry waves to "be still," while his voice is drowned in the roar of the turbulent waters. Yet no man should be discouraged so long as the cause in which he is enlisted is a good one; and if he were left alone and the malice of the whole world were hurled against him, still should he battle for the right to the extent of his power. In this struggle that is going on in connection with the "Mormon" community there is one source of encouragement that never fails—the consciousness of duty fulfilled. In the battle, the Almighty "expects this day that every man will do his duty." Let this be remembered by every Latter-day Saint in every position. Those

who keep this fact before their eyes may be surrounded by depressing gloom, but a brilliant ray of light will be clearly seen over the horizon of hope.

Any who desire to intelligently join us in our humble though earnest way, in the fight for right are kindly directed to the fact that the columns of the News are open to them, and we will also with pleasure give place to appropriate articles that our friends may find in other journals. We have been fairly industrious in hunting for papers of that description, but the harvest has of late been exceedingly meagre, showing that men of brains and thought who are willing to make an intelligent effort to stem a tide of villainous calumny and oppression against an inoffensive community are becoming beautifully small in number. Current-swimmers are, on the other hand, an immense multitude.

ANOTHER BLOW.

THE deplorable situation in Idaho remains unchanged, and there is no present prospect of improvement. The rights and liberties of the "Mormon" people in that Territory are ruthlessly trampled upon, and up to date every remedy sought has failed.

Our readers are familiar with the condition of affairs in Bear Lake County, nearly the whole of whose citizens have been disfranchised, the judicial machinery brought to a standstill, and the people left a prey to criminals of the worst description, who choose to make depredatory incursions over the Bear Lake borders.

In Cassia County matters are not much better. Two out of the three County Commissioners were deposed because they were members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and consequently could not subscribe to the notorious religious test oath. The places vacated by their removal were filled by appointment of the Governor, and the three commissioners appointed all the precinct officers. The people have, therefore not the slightest voice in the selection of any officer of the county. They are living under an autocracy as complete as that which obtains in any of the provinces of Russia. They are tyrannically denied the constitutional guaranty of a Republican form of government, because of the unpopularity of their religion.

It will be seen by a special to the News on the subject that the question of the removal of the commissioners, etc., came up in the District Court at Albion, the main point raised by the deposed officers being the unconstitutionality of the test oath act. Chief Justice Hayes has decided in favor of the constitutionality of the act, thus aiming another blow at the rights of the people.

Judge Hayes is a Democrat, being the appointee of the present administration to succeed Chief Justice Morgan, removed for cause.

SPAIN'S TROUBLES.

THE old saws "Troubles never come singly" and "It never rains, but it pours" find illustration in the present condition of Spain. Having just experienced serious revolutionary trouble and horrible earthquakes followed by extraordinarily destructive storms and with the cholera raging throughout her domain, and her stricken people dying like rotten sheep, it would seem that she has trouble enough without the German government adding to it by trying to gobble up the Carolines, a group of islands away off east of the Philippines which Spain established a claim upon as long ago as three hundred and fifty years. By the way, it is doubtful whether those almost barren coral reefs which produce nothing, and upon which only a few natives manage to eke out a scanty subsistence, are worth quarreling over, but this latest example of Bismarck's aggressive policy has been sufficient to thoroughly arouse the resentment of the excitable Spaniards, and though the heads of the Government since the first ebullition of ire, when the king resigned his commission of an honorary colonelcy in the German army, have been inclined to seek a reconciliation, and are apparently willing to make concessions for the sake of peace, the subjects of the nation are not as easily pacified. They do not attempt to conceal their ire and are worked up into quite a frenzy over the affair.

And now, as if the causes mentioned were not sufficient trouble for poor Spain to bear, she is racked with internal labor troubles. Many of the wealthy, as might naturally be expected, have become alarmed over the continued spread of the plague and have fled the country, and the sources of employment which their wealth has afforded have thus been cut off. As a result, their poor stricken dependents are left to shift for themselves—to starve, if they survive the cholera. The laboring classes, incensed at this condition of affairs, are now engaged in riots, wrecking the houses of the wealthy and helping themselves to the spoil.

Yesterday's telegrams from Madrid report a conflict between these rioters and the soldiery, in which eight persons were killed and twelve wounded. All things considered, Spain is in a bad fix and her condition should call forth the sympathy of nations as well as individuals—and that kind of sympathy which does not find expression merely in words, but something more substantial.

AN HONORABLE WAY OUT WANTED.

WE have heard some of the reasoning of those who are solicitous that the Latter-day Saints should save themselves from disaster by a renunciation of religious principle. We are not in love with these special pleadings. However, a man who is placed in jeopardy for the sake of conscience and principle who would decline to avail himself of any honorable opportunity of evading imprisonment, the plunging of his family into sorrow and distress, the probable breaking up of his business and other concomitants of the situation, would be more than senseless. But if there be an honorable loophole it is not yet discernable to the naked eye. The judicial policy thus far in the crusade has been, where the law appeared to have left an honorable door, to shut it securely and fasten it with a legal bar. If an honorable mode of exit were suggested, and that kind of a way out were not completely hedged up, almost as soon as discovered there would be a revolution in the tactics of the raiders.

The person placed in jeopardy thus far has been given his choice of two alternatives. The one is the abandonment of family, and practical apostasy. This insures immunity from punishment. The other is adherence to principle. The concomitants of this latter position are imprisonment in a foul den, unfit for the conveniences of animal, to say nothing of human, life, with other circumstances equally uninviting, as before enumerated.

No man of intelligence and an appreciative sense of right—no matter what his religious faith may be, or whether he is devoid of any religious adherence—could honestly state that the acceptance of the first alternative for the sake of immunity would be an honorable step. Men on the outside support the position, as a matter of course, and advise their "Mormon" friends accordingly, but that it can be done on conscientious grounds is impossible. Therefore, when a man is advised in that direction, all the appeals are made to his fears. If he have extensive non-"Mormon" business and social connections he is told that if he goes to jail as a convict, his former friends will desert him. They will shun him as one who is affected with a contagious disease, considering him unfit for association with them. He is told that his children in after years will look upon the circumstance of his having been a convict with shame, considering themselves disgraced by his action.

Even if this picture were not overdrawn, the sophistry does not only fail to reach down to the root of the matter, but scarcely skims the surface. The question must be decided from the standpoint of the man who is placed in the predicament. Is he an honest man? If so, he entered into the family relationship for which he is jeopardized honestly, as a part of his religion. The wives with whom he entered into the marriage contract are equally bound to him, each by the same sacred obligations. Then he cannot thrust one aside, any more than another. He understands that God revealed the principle under which he entered upon the relationship. Therefore he is bound to take the ground that no human agency should cause him to renounce what God has enjoined. Knowing that his disadvantageous position is the result of an infringement of his privilege of the "free exercise" of religious principle, he will perceive that to recede under pressure is not only a renunciation of the right to independent worship, but a departure from the true genius of liberty. He will comprehend that his hopes in relation to eternity are based upon his adherence to what God has commanded in this life, and he will not sacrifice so important a prospect on account of any earthly consideration.

On the other hand, if a man is insincere and unfaithful, he will listen to the plausible theories of false friends, and the principles which lie at the root of the whole matter will not have the overwhelming weight to which they are entitled. A person who would act upon their special pleadings would probably wake up too late to the grand fact that his only true friends were God and the faithful part of the community with whose fortunes he formerly cast his lot. But this would not be a very happy reflection when indulged in after the connection, which should have been as eternal as the heavens, had been abruptly and effectually severed.

If the principle which, on the surface, appears to be the leading point of attack should be receded from by the Saints, we are of opinion that the Almighty would repudiate them, and they would have no more claim upon Him. But suppose, for the sake of argument, that this would not be His consequent action, what advantage would there

be, even so far as relief from oppression is concerned, if the retrogressive step were taken? Would it remove the difficulty? No one who understands the divine character of the work in which the Saints are engaged can entertain such an idea for a moment. It would be contrary not only to what the Almighty has said on the subject, but out of harmony with every historical precedent. It would simply change the line of attack adopted by the enemies of the community.

There never could be a better exemplification of one of Christ's beautiful and appropriate parables than the present crisis affords. The storm clouds have arisen. The winds and waves will, in course of time, beat against every house. Those which are built on the shifting sands of worldly gain, popularity and fear of consequences will be wrecked. Those built upon the rock of immovable integrity and eternal truth will stand the test of the strongest blast, and when the overcast sky is cleared the sun of peace will shine upon Zion—"the pure in heart."

If there is an honorable shelter from the gathering storm other than that which will be ultimately provided by the Lord of Hosts, perhaps some clear headed individual will be kind enough to indicate it.

THINGS WORTH THINKING ABOUT.

THE journals throughout the world make frequent mention of the phenomenal and destructive disturbances that have characterized mundane matters of late years. Those who attribute the cause to the judgments of the Almighty for the wickedness of the people of the earth are but few in number. It is becoming more and more uncommon to attribute any condition to the active operation of God among men. But people who acknowledge Him are to be found in various parts of the world. One fine morning, however, the world will wake up to the fact that the Almighty is manifesting his displeasure at the frightful abominations that prevail, and that are hourly increasing. The proud, the wicked and corrupt are oppressors of the poor and meek, but the earth will yet be cleansed of those who sow iniquity and cause mourning and lamentation, for they will be removed, to give place to a purer and healthier condition, which, however, will evolve out of the greatest tribulation the earth has ever witnessed.

A few days ago an esteemed correspondent of the News treated upon existing and future woes among the inhabitants of the globe. The facts to which he pointed regarding the phenomenal disasters that are no common occurrences could not be overturned, being matters within the scope of general knowledge. But as usual unbelievers scoffed at the idea advanced by him as to the cause of the extraordinary disturbances. The wickedness of the people of the earth, and the heavy hand of God upon them as a consequence constituted the reason according to the correspondent.

The predictions of Joseph Smith, the great Prophet of the nineteenth century, are before the world, and by observing the current of events people can readily discover their quality. So far as disasters precursors of the coming of Christ are concerned, the following are some of the calamitous events which he foreshadowed.

Terrible storms by land and sea, the destruction upon the waters to be so great as to cause it to be exceedingly dangerous to cross the oceans.

A "scourge" or "desolating sickness," which was to sweep over the land day and night, so that the report of it would "vex all people," as is the case to-day in relation to the cholera. This frightful scourge was to continue to visit the earth off and on until the coming of the Lord, and would not be stayed until that great event transpired.

Unparalleled storms of thunder and lightning; earthquakes and terrific noises and groanings in the earth; international complications and disagreements, causing wars and rumors of war, leading eventually to a general carnage, the like of which has never been witnessed, causing thrones to totter and empires to be thrown down.

Plagues and pestilences of various kinds, including a species of fly that would seize upon the flesh of men and cause putrefaction and decomposition to ensue.

The destruction of the crops of the earth by an indescribable hailstorm; famine and all the hideous consequences thereof.

In this country, providing the people refused to repent, the condition was to be appalling. The war of the rebellion, which began in South Carolina, was to be supplemented ultimately by a far more bloody condition, by the operation of "secret combinations," which now cover the land from shore to shore. To avoid the terrible consequences of the existence of these malignant conditions it was indicated that those who were converted to the message that Joseph Smith was commissioned to declare should flee westward and thus "be enabled to comparatively avoid them."

The sea was to heave "beyond its

bounds," and rush over the land, sweeping it and causing total destruction over large areas of country.

These and other agencies were to continue and increase in number and magnitude until every nation which would not consent to serve God should be wasted away, that the earth might be cleansed and purged from the presence of the wicked, and a brighter era be inaugurated with the remnant and perpetuated by their children after them, under the direction of the Almighty.

Whether people are willing to admit that Joseph Smith was a prophet specially and divinely commissioned or not, that he predicted the present and reasoning from cause to effect—evidently approaching conditions of the earth, cannot be successfully controverted.

For further proof upon this point let the seeker for light scrutinize the signs of the times, and carefully consider coming occurrences. We are satisfied, if he live a few years longer he will discover increasing evidence of the world having, in this generation, been graced by one of the greatest prophets of the race.

A FOUL CRIME AT THE PARK.

THE news of a brutal outrage upon a young lady at Park City creates a widespread sensation in the community. For prudential reasons the name of the hapless victim of the fiendish deed is not made public. The general feeling on the subject of the occurrence is divided between sympathy for her and her family connections and wrath toward the unmitigated rascal who perpetrated the foul crime. No pains should be spared in hunting the villain down. The preservation of virtue and safety of the innocent cry loudly for his capture, that an example may be made of his case that will tend to deter fellow of the same baseness from preying upon and victimizing the helpless. His crime is one of the blackest on the calendar, and if caught, as it is hoped he will be, his punishment should be in accordance with the outside limit of the law.

While speaking of this damnable deed, it may not be inappropriate to once more draw the attention of parents in this city to the increasing danger to which young girls are exposed in this locality. Whether it be believed or not, there are a number of licentious villains in Salt Lake who would delight to effect the ruin of any young woman they can get within the range of their influence. Parents cannot be too careful in looking after the welfare of their daughters. They should know where they are and with whom they are in the habit of associating. Unless more care is taken in this regard, and unless some of the youth of the tender sex manifest more circumspection, there will be not a few instances where harvests of sorrow will be reaped.

CLOSE THE DISCUSSION.

The question of deaf mute education has received a pretty thorough ventilation of late through our columns, and the controversy between Dr. Young and Professor White on the subject may very properly close with the letter which appears in the present issue. The difference between their respective views is now narrowed down to the question of whether articulation, which is only a small part—though important part it is true—of the education to be acquired by deaf mutes, should be taught before anything else or after the pupils have gained some knowledge of the art of letters and learned to communicate their ideas by means of writing or of signs. That Mr. White is qualified to educate pupils of this unfortunate class in the several branches necessary with the exception of articulation has been demonstrated, and he is in favor of having that branch taught to those who can acquire it as an adjunct to the others, by a special teacher, whenever the officers of the University consider that the financial condition of the institution will warrant such an extension of facilities in that department. The Chancellor, Board of Regents, President and entire faculty of the University, have the interests of the children of the community generally at heart, and we think they may be relied upon to arrange matters connected with that noble institution of learning for the best possible advantage of the deaf mutes as well as all other classes of pupils.

Lieut. General John H. Melville Babbington, of the British army was killed yesterday while shooting at grouse in Dumfries, Scotland, by the accidental discharge of his gun.

A Tokio dispatch to the Vienna *Politische Correspondenz* says: The Japanese government will withdraw its paper money in 1886 and introduce silver currency, also retaining the gold currency.

A McKeesport, Pa., special says: The miners' strike was inaugurated today instead of Saturday; 500 men quit work, and it is expected that by tomorrow evening fully 4,000 miners will be out.