

EDITORIALS.

THE GREAT NEED OF "CHRISTENDOM."

A distinguished orthodox American "divine" thus sums up an article in the *Christian Union* on the condition of the various Churches in this country:

The conclusion of the whole matter is this: The Churches of America, the Christians of America, need the baptism of the Holy Ghost.

This is the plain and simple truth expressed in a very few words. The sentence implies more than it expresses. The logical deduction is that the professing Christians of this country individually and as organized bodies are without the gift of the Holy Ghost. This is one of the declarations of "Mormonism" made from the very beginning of this Church. It is not denied that the spirit of truth in some degree is enjoyed by the different sects, but it also influences people that belong to no Church, and is not withheld from the heathen. It is "the true light that lighteth every man that cometh into the world."

The baptism of the Holy Ghost is something more than that. It is a special gift from God to believers in Christ who obey His Gospel. It is an essential to membership in the Church of Christ and to citizenship in the Kingdom of God. It follows the true baptism of water. A man must first be born of the water and then of the spirit. If he is not he cannot be numbered among those who have a right to the title of the sons of God.

The whole "Christian" world of the American continent—not mentioning their co-religionists of the Eastern Hemisphere, are thus in need of conversion. If the Churches and people have not the gift of the Holy Ghost all their administrations are void and vain. In order to obtain the baptism of the Holy Ghost they must find some one authorized to confer it upon them. The New Testament, which they uphold as the word of God, shows very plainly that the Holy Ghost was conferred in the early Christian Church by the laying on of the Apostles' hands. The plan has never been changed. All Christendom, clergy and laity, must bow to it or they will not be able to change their condition. They will continue to be divided and in doubt, and never be able to come to the knowledge of the truth, as it is in Christ Jesus. They may believe in the Savior, but they can never know God and that Jesus is the Lord, until they are baptized with the Holy Ghost, administered by the laying on of hands of men divinely appointed to confer it.

No such authority exists on earth outside of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, in which it has been restored by the personal appearance of men who held the keys of the Apostleship anciently, they ordaining men in the flesh to that authority. All people living are called upon to repent and be baptized in water in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, with the promise that they shall receive the baptism of the Holy Ghost by the laying on of hands. If the "Christian" churches and "Christian" people of America desire to receive the great boon which it is declared by leading men of their own sects that they lack, let them come to the light. Let them come up to Zion, to the mountain of the Lord's House, or listen to the voice and testimony of the Elders sent forth to invite them to the feast of the precious things of the Kingdom prepared for the humble and obedient. Then they shall learn the ways of God and walk in His paths, rejoice in the unity of the faith, the certainty of the truth, and the gifts, powers, light and supreme satisfaction of the Holy Ghost, the Comforter, which reveals the Father and the Son, and "searcheth all things yea, the deep things of God."

THE INEVITABLE RESULT.

A prominent eastern journal complains of the prominence given to "Mormonism" by the opposition to its immigration, and by such measures as the Edmunds law, and declares that these "give to Mormon-

ism a greater opportunity for growth than it before had."

This is what we have repeatedly pointed out. It seems strange that thoughtful minds among the opponents of this system had not perceived it long ago. It ought to be plain to those who watch the progress of events, that this work profits by all the great efforts made for its overthrow. If they could only comprehend that and keep down the desire to do something extraordinary in this direction, they would accomplish a thousandfold more towards effecting their purpose than they have ever done yet.

The more they assail "Mormonism" the livelier it will be; and the more falsehoods they tell about it, the more noise they make over it, and the more they legislate against it, the more they advertise it and aid in its promulgation. If they could only let it alone its progress would be less rapid and extensive. But they cannot. Influences are at work provoking them to play the fool over it, and the advantages every time accrue to the system they are ever striving to suppress.

Persecution and violence will not and cannot prevail against this work, but the future will prove like the past, that opposition enlarges its vitality, and force only stimulates it to greater victories. When will statesmen and social scientists profit by the lessons of history?

THE RAVINGS OF TALMAGE.

The Rev. (?) De Witt Talmage is the pious "Christian" who advocated the solving of the "Mormon problem" by getting all the leaders of the Church and the teachers of the system into the Tabernacle and blowing them into eternity by United States artillery. His righteous soul has been exercised quite recently over the landing and passage to Utah of the company of "Mormons" from Europe, whose detention and return were desired by Consul Mason.

Before proceeding to quote further from the sayings of the fantastic Talmage, we will refer to the statement by Consul Mason about the emigration companies at Basle. He declared that the Swiss "Mormon" emigrants were paupers shipped by the Communies at the public expense as the cheapest way of getting rid of the burden of supporting them. Also that three principal emigrating companies at Basle had refused to convey them. We have learned the facts in regard to these companies. They declined taking charge of "Mormon" emigrants because they had been notified not to do so by the very authorities which Consul Mason says paid the passage of the emigrants.

We supposed that these companies had failed to obtain the contract to convey our emigrants, through demanding excessive rates, but we learn that they were forbidden to make any such contract, and therefore other means had to be adopted for the passage of our people to Liverpool than the usual method through an emigration company.

Dr. Talmage exaggerated the number of the emigrants from 400 odd to 800. He felt quite exasperated about their arrival. Said he: "The law of the land neither touched them when they landed nor put upon their shoulder the hand of arrest when they departed." He then proceeded to inveigh against the law and the government, and is thus answered by the *New York World*:

Dr. Talmage is sorely exercised over the Mormon question. In his Friday night discourse at the Tabernacle he opened the vial of his wrath against the "twin relic" and against the government which "sits idly in the presence of this evil" and does nothing to eradicate it.

Brother Talmage has made a discovery which will be startling to the politicians. Mormonism, he says, is not only dominant in Utah, but holds a balance of power in the states and territories, and "is powerfully entrenched in and overshadows the national capital." Good gracious! Does the reverend doctor mean to imply that we are all getting to be polygamists, and that the present moral and high-toned administration is a convert to the institution? Really, now, the fiery exhorter of the Tabernacle should remember that June is upon us, that the dog-pound is open and that excitement in hot weather is hazardous to health.

Dr. Talmage's indignation has thus arisen to fever heat because "eight hundred captives of Mormonism, under the care of their captors, were allowed on the Sabbath to pass through New York," and no one "put upon their shoulders the hand of arrest as they departed."

Terrible picture! But, alas! there is a concise document known as the Constitution, which protects every man's liberty and every man's conscience, and women are included. If any "hand of arrest" had been put upon the shoulders of these Mormons, the same hand would probably soon afterwards have been put down into its owner's pockets to hand out an amount of damages for false imprisonment.

In fact, law is an actuality in this land of liberty as well as Mormonism, and the people who think more of law than of the "twin relic," would have been highly indignant at any attempt to treat these "eight hundred captives" as criminals and deprive them of the right of free judgment without warrant.

It will be found that those who are the most vehement against the "Mormons" because of alleged infraction of the law, are themselves advocates of lawlessness. For instance here is Dr. Talmage endeavoring to stir up the people to destroy "Mormonism" in an utterly lawless manner. Said he:

"In my opinion nothing but a great national revolution will ever touch it. The days for the peaceful solution of this question are past. By the year, by the month, by the hour Mormonism is gathering momentum. A few batteries on the hills around Salt Lake City might once have put a quietus on this great outrage, but not now. God only knows by what mode or through what national exhaustion the curse is to be extirpated. But go it must."

We wonder whether these professed disciples of the Redeemer ever think of the peculiar position in which they place themselves before the world, when, in assuming the role of ministers of salvation, they advocate the slaughter of the "Mormons" for believing and practicing a creed at variance with orthodoxy. The utterances of such men as Talmage are more suitable for the lips of wholesale assassins, and men who revel in human butchery, than of professing "Christians." But the antics of such religious mountebanks, we are happy to say, only produce upon the public mind a similar impression to that made by the gambols of the painted clown and the tricks of the common juggler. Attention may be attracted by their peculiarities, but their value is nought and their effect is no more than the fluttering of a red rag in the wind.

A PERIL TO BE AVOIDED.

FREEMAN, the celebrated historian, in publishing his impressions of the United States, has taken solid Democratic ground concerning the relative positions of the respective States and the Federal Government. He states his conviction that so vast a region, taking in lands whose condition differs so widely in everything, "can be kept together only by a federal system, leaving large independent powers in the hands of the several States." He declares that "no single Parliament could administer for Maine, Florida and California." He considers that too close a union is "the very way to lead to a separation," the possible danger of which he perceives. He therefore uses the term "Sovereign States," at the risk of offending many of his readers, contending that "a state is sovereign which has any powers which it holds by inherent right, without control on the part of any other power, without responsibility to any other power." Also that "there is a range in which the State is sovereign, though within another range—within the range of powers which have been surrendered to the Union—the Union is sovereign."

Every citizen who loves his country and desires the perpetuity of the form of government established by the fathers of the Republic, ought to understand thoroughly and aid in maintaining the sovereignty belonging to the national Government, and that inherent in the several States, in such a manner that the rights of neither are infringed upon. That there is danger of a gradual

encroachment of the Federal upon State authority must be evident to thoughtful minds, watchful of current events. This has been very apparent since the close of the civil war. The right to secede from the Union was settled in the negative by that bloody struggle, and the supremacy of the National Government was firmly established. But there has since been a disposition exhibited to encroach upon those rights reserved in the Constitution to the respective partners in the Federal compact, and to the individual citizen.

The doctrine of local self-government is fundamental to the American system. Any invasion or denial of it is contrary to the spirit and letter of the supreme law of the land. And any assumption of powers by the Federal authority, greater than those given to it by the free consent of the respective commonwealths that together form this glorious Union, is fraught with more danger to the nation than any probable attempt at encroachment by individual States upon the general Government.

Everybody wishing the welfare and continued prosperity of the United States desires a strong Government that can uphold the national authority at home and abroad. But that term is not to be interpreted in the sense which some would like to attach to it. It must be strong only in its own legitimate sphere. It must be the expression of the popular voice, not the dictator. Each local organism must be preserved in its integrity. Municipal law must be recognized in its place as much as congressional law. The will of the people in each locality must be paramount for that locality or an essential principle in our system will be lacking. Thus the peculiar governments called Territories should enjoy that freedom which belongs of right to every body politic, and which is reserved and guaranteed to it by the Constitution.

States rights and individual rights must not be lost sight of in the upholding of Federal authority, or the grand system of government set up on this land by the heroes who threw off the monarchical oppression of the mother country, will be gravely imperilled if not utterly overturned.

THE ALEXANDER CASE.

THE following press dispatch has appeared in California papers, and bears marks of the hand which has fabricated other messages designed to deceive the public and malign the "Mormons":

"SALT LAKE, June 6.

A telegram was received in this city to-day from Chattanooga, stating that John Alexander had been beaten and shot twice in a Georgia town. This information comes to the Mormon Church from one of its Elders in Chattanooga. John Alexander is the son of an honest apostate Mormon, who earnestly protested against the young man going on a mission, but he was in love with a Bishop's daughter and the Church told him he couldn't have the girl unless he served as a missionary in the South for two years. Last April he was sent to Georgia against the wishes of his mother and father. Three years ago a Mormon Elder by the name of Standish was killed in the same locality, which is not considered a healthy place for polygamists. The father of John Alexander looks upon the shooting of his son as a put up job by Mormons."

Full particulars of the outrage upon Brother Alexander appeared in the *EVENING NEWS* of June 12th. We now give an account of the circumstances, which, garbled and misstated, are alluded to in the above dispatch.

John Alexander's parents are seceders from the Church, but the young man retains his faith and membership therein. He became attached to the daughter of a Latter-day Saint who is not a Bishop, but is active in the Church and well-known as a good and reliable man. The union of the young people was not opposed to the extent of forbidding the match, but the young lady's father desired that it should be postponed until the young man should prove sufficiently his integrity to the faith, and that he had not fallen back as his parents had done.

The union of Latter-day Saints with persons not of the same faith

is opposed on religious grounds and also as a matter of social importance. It is not good policy for persons of entirely opposite beliefs to be joined in matrimony; and such a course is contrary to Church covenants. Proof of worthiness is often and should always be required on the part of men, young or old, desiring to espouse a daughter of a Latter-day Saint. This, in quite a number of instances, has been afforded by the would-be bridegroom's honorably filling a mission. A man who can go out to the world and bear testimony of the truth of his religion, keeping himself unspotted from the evils of the world, and returning with a clear record, is very apt to be worthy of the affections of a virtuous woman, and to make a good husband and good son-in-law.

John Alexander was called on a mission to the Southern States at the last April Conference in the same way that others were called. He was 22 years of age, and capable of deciding for himself. There was nothing compulsory in the call. He accepted it of his own volition. Church had nothing to do with his private affairs. He was willing to go, his fiancée was also willing, and he departed in due time with other missionaries to preach the Gospel. Three cowardly ruffians set upon him in Georgia, kicked and bruised his body and fired their revolver at him with the evident intention of killing him. His escape from death is remarkable and providential. He is now at home with his parents and is improving in health.

The parents of the young man disclaim entirely the statement contained in the last sentence of the foregoing dispatch. They would foolishly indeed to entertain such an absurd thought that the "Mormon" Church would attempt a mob and shoot one of its own missionaries. The preposterous falsehood is one that could only be invented by a rabid "Mormon" hater, like the fellow who sends the lying dispatches dated "Salt Lake," which appear every now and again in the *San Francisco Chronicle* and other Coast papers.

A representative of the News waited personally on Mr. and Mrs. Alexander to ask if they or either of them had expressed an opinion like that stated in the telegram. They both indignantly denied it. The effect of the dispatch is to stamp them not only as "apostates" but fools. They never imagined for a moment that the "Mormons" had anything to do with the outrage upon their son, except to render him all the aid that was possible in his affliction. The manufacture of this latest piece of "Mormon" stupidity proves the patcher to be not only a petty malignant candidate for the fate of Ananias, but a fit subject for a room in the new Asylum now building on the Provo Bench, if it were not for one clause in the law, which provides that it shall not be used as a place of confinement in cases of idiosyncrasy or delirium tremens.

WHAT OFFICES HAVE TO BE FILLED?

THE laws of the Territory require the County Clerk of each County to post notices previous to the general election which takes place annually in August, notifying the public as to the officers to be elected. Under the Commissioners' rules this duty now devolves upon the County Registration officers by them appointed.

A very important question is, What offices are to be filled at the approaching election? This subject the Commissioners now have under consideration.

It will be remembered that the remarkable congressional blunder known as the Hoar Amendment, empowered the Governor of Utah to fill all offices that had been made vacant by reason of the failure of the August election of 1882; also that in consequence of the "hold over" clause, usual in most of the States laws, and incorporated in the statutes of Utah, there were scarcely any vacancies to fill. The old incumbents held over and now occupy the positions to which they were elected by the people. Should their offices be filled at the coming August election? is now the query.

We have taken the ground all along that those officers whose term of office is "for two years and until their successors are elected and qualified," will hold over for another term, which will not expire until