

DESERET NEWS.

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JUNE 11, 1879.

DEFAMATION OF CHARACTER.

WE have been informed by a lady, on whose statements we can rely, that being present on the Sunday afternoon, at the Tabernacle, when a large number of the clerical excursionists attended, she was unpleasantly attracted by the remarks of a certain Judge who appeared very anxious to prejudice the minds of those within hearing, against the brethren who addressed the congregation.

One of the speakers, he said, was a counterfeiter, who had to be sent on a mission to keep him out of prison for his crimes; another was the husband of five wives and a noted villain, and a third he denounced as a seditious person who was constantly engaged in stirring up the people to acts of insurrection and rebellion against the Government.

We have refrained from publishing a communication sent to us on this subject, because the writer, feeling wrought up considerably by the utter falsehood of these accusations and the meanness of the person who thus attempted to poison the minds of individuals who were desirous of hearing something about "Mormonism," reflects very severely and in strong language upon the character of the mendacious dignitary.

If we desired to turn the tables we might enlighten the public a little in relation to the morality of the malicious person who misinterpreted the time and defiled the place set apart for the worship of Almighty God, by fabricating wilful untruths against men whose character is at least as fair and untarnished as his own; but when reviled we do not desire to revile again. However, we would be perfectly willing to compare the records of those gentlemen with that of the unmanly and small-souled being who took advantage of the lack of information in his temporary companions, to pour into their ears a stream of villainous falsehood in order to blind their eyes to the principles of truth then being enunciated from the pulpit.

And we speak advisedly. We are not ignorant of his career nor blind to the ugly blots upon it, which charity and greenbacks combined have partly covered from the public gaze. But we are not engaged in the business of scandal-spreading nor desirous of dragging into general judgment, before the appointed time, the secret sins and damning shame even of our bitterest enemies, who do not scruple to manufacture evil to retail against us when they have no facts sufficiently blackening to suit their purpose.

We allude to this matter now to answer the feelings of those who heard and were angered at his paltry malice, and that he may know we understand and appreciate his calibre and value. There is a statute against libel; and those who administer the law should be observers of the law.

THE SIN OF THE AGE.

At the Convention of the National Woman Suffrage Association held at St. Louis, in May, a great many smart and pointed arguments were used in favor of the complete political freedom of woman, most of which cannot be successfully controverted. A session was held, at which only women were permitted to be present, although several curious bipeds of the male persuasion, poked their heads through the doorway and attempted to gain admission. A full report of the proceedings was furnished to the *Republican*, and from this we find that licensed prostitution received a severe shake-up from the strong-minded leaders of the society. The lenient eye, if not positive encouragement, with which men who should be examples of purity, look

upon the prevalent form of sexual vice which disgraces all Christendom, received plain exposure and deserved condemnation. Mrs. Spencer related the history of her struggles against the social evil in Washington, and the support it gained from men who frame the laws. And referring to this sin in St. Louis she said:

"During a small-pox rage, six years ago, 5,000 people fled in a single night, leaving their household goods behind them, because the poison was in the air, but a worse poison is in the air of this city all the time. At the time of the Chicago fire women lost all their treasures they thought, but far wider spreading than the flames are the fiery passions of men that burn in every part of that great city."

Mrs. Merriweather, to show the manner in which the seeds of evil were sowed in the hearts of the youth, spoke of her sons whom she had endeavored to bring up "just as pure as any girl," but they went to college, and after a while she paid them a visit.

"She found their purity smutched; they had been listening to the serpent, or rather some modern Eve, who had bidden them eat and they 'did eat.' She complained to the dean of the college and the doctor of physic—or physique—who said it was necessary to the lad's health that they should eat of the forbidden fruit."

Mrs. Phebe Couzens reviewed the Oliver-Cameron case, showing that the woman was actually placed on trial, although the plaintiff against the man. She talked of

"The pitiful sight of 150 women turned out of the Treasury Department at Washington, walking the rooms that surround the Senate Chamber, decked in ribbons and flowers to attract the eye of the Senators with the hope of being reinstated through their favor. She saw long lines of carriages near the Senate Chamber, and asking for whom they waited, learned that they were there by orders of the Senators to take the men whose votes these august law-givers wished to control to houses of ill-fame, where through the women who barter their bodies for money, the influence of the Senators is strengthened with their constituents."

The pictures of vice which some of these ladies painted from the originals in "Christian" cities side by side with "Christian" houses, were horrifying in the extreme. And yet the supporters and apologizers for this condition of affairs are among the chief brawlers against the practice of plural marriage! This is natural enough, though. For any system which will marry up all the women and leave none as a possible prey for lecherous men, may be expected to encounter the most bitter opposition from the pretended virtuous but really corrupt. A precious Dean that college official who countenanced the vices of young collegiates, and nice preceptors are such for the youth, who look upon the damning sin of the age as a necessary evil! Do not the fathers and mothers of Zion's sons wish to send their boys to men of this stamp, to guide their footsteps in the path of virtue and purity? Such pious professors would denounce plural marriage, but encourage prostitution, as was virtually done by the Boston fraud in his Sunday evening boomerang in this city. Verily this is a generation of hypocrites, and we wish the Woman Suffrage Association success in its efforts to unmask them.

"THE HARVEST IS GREAT AND THE DOLLARS ARE FEW."

THE visit to our Territory of the excursionists to the Yosemite was eagerly utilized by the professional religious mendicants within our borders. The most notorious circulators of subscription lists plead with the clerical members of the party, for their influence in obtaining pecuniary assistance to aid these perennial plate passers in the good work of gathering in the dollars, which seems to be in their eyes the chief object of their mission in "Mormondom." They are like the darkey on a ship in a

storm, who was asked to pray, but not being proficient in that kind of oratory was requested to do something religious, whereupon he took up a collection. This appears to be the end and aim of all their ecclesiastical exercises.

The following *morceau* as an illustration of this subject deserves preservation and for that reason we publish it in the NEWS. It was freely circulated among the members of the excursion party at Ogden, the subscriber being one of those Methodist impostors who has drawn heavily on the religious purse of the East with Munchausen stories of "Mormon" depravity. It should be understood in this connection, that a liberal religious percentage was demanded from the hotel proprietors and deducted by the pious arrangers for refreshments, off the fee for the grand dinner referred to, at one dollar per head.

APPEAL TO TOURISTS.

You are now about to enter the celebrated Territory of Utah, the great centre of Mormonism. Under God our Christian Churches have been making some progress, still the harvest is great and dollars are few. We are doing missionary work, and only by persistent effort and self-sacrificing toil, inch by inch win over this deluded land to the enjoyments of our blessed Christianity. In the folder put out by the managers of this excursion you will see what we desire to do for you in Ogden.

We intend to make you all welcome and to do everything within our power to leave pleasant remembrances.

Our grand dinner will cost you but \$1.00, and if any desire to leave a larger amount for our benefit, we assure you that the Ladies of the M. E. Church will hold you in grateful remembrance.

A large number of your party have already greatly encouraged us, with donations, and scholarships in our Academy, and there never was a better investment.

Gladly would we receive deposits for scholarships, and the great Head of the Church will pronounce you blessed. "In as much as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren."

From the fullness of our heart and with faith in the great future we most earnestly commend our cause to you and in Jesus name beg your co-operation, influence and means to help forward our good and great work.

Most respectfully yours,

H. SKEWES AND LADY,
In charge of M. E. Church.

HONORING THE AGED.

THE excursion which is to take place on the 24th inst. is worthy of all commendation. It is also entitled to public support. It is designed with the best of motives and appeals to the better nature of every truly human being. A tender regard for the aged, respect for their experience, and a desire for their happiness should dwell in the hearts of all. For several years an annual free trip into the country for the old folks has been arranged by a "Mormon" committee, the benefits of which have been extended to all persons over seventy years who desire to participate, without regard to creed, race or politics. Refreshments have also been provided, gratis, and every exertion made to please and gratify the grey-haired sires and aged dames whose days on earth are almost numbered. Every one of these excursions, so far, has been a success. No accident has occurred nor disagreeable incident to disturb the peace and harmony of the occasion, but a splendid spirit has prevailed, and the feeble folk have been able to make the journey without excessive weariness.

We hope and believe that the present year's excursion will be equal to its predecessors. A trip will be taken on the Utah Southern to American Fork, and as on former occasions a genuine treat will be provided for the old folks. Younger persons will be taken on this trip for One Dollar. It is not expected that these fares will furnish money enough to pay the expenses of the excursion, therefore donations will be received from any who wish to contribute. This is a worthy object, and as every dollar obtained will be spent for the benefit of the old folks, we cordially commend

the matter to the consideration of the public. It is desirable that lists of the names of all who intend to take advantage of this opportunity for an "out" should be received by the committee within ten days. See notice in our local columns.

"CHRISTIAN" CUNNING AND "MORMON" DUTY.

THIS issue of the NEWS contains a lengthy review of the resolutions adopted at the Presbyterian conference held at Saratoga. The question will doubtless arise, Why are the Presbyterians on the Atlantic coast so terribly exercised about the doings of a few individuals in a remote portion of the country, while sin and error abound unchecked in their immediate vicinity, to an extent compared with which the alleged and fancied evils of "Mormondom" are but as a few specks of dust to the sands on the shore at Saratoga? The reason is, the solemn old representatives of inflexible orthodoxy have been alarmed into the expressions contained in their preamble and resolutions by the romancing and deviltry of Coyner, Gallagher and one or two other persons of a similar stamp of villainy, who are engaged in the usual work of "Christian" delegates from Utah—raising money from the unsophisticated in the East.

An extensive movement has been organized for the establishment of Presbyterian schools in all the principal towns of this Territory, the object of which is to gain control of "Mormon" children and pervert them from the truths taught by their parents, provide situations and salaries for impecunious Presbyterian preachers, and bring in a handsome revenue for the head academy in Salt Lake City, of which Coyner is the Principal. This is very ingenious and quite lawful. Indeed it might be thought praiseworthy if legitimate and truthful methods were adopted to extend the Presbyterian cause. For we consider that every member of a religious body should strive to spread the principles which he believes to be for the best interests of mankind, and the establishment of schools and churches comes within the proper scope and sphere of a Christian preacher's ministry. But these persons depart from the truth in their schemes and representations, and have the most selfish objects in view as the end of their plottings. They have resorted to the most abominable and wilful falsehood to agitate the minds of the benevolent, and wish to pervert our children while, at the same time, they thickly and comfortably feather their own nests.

Our people should take such a course that good will grow out of the intentions of their enemies for evil. The building of schoolhouses and churches here by the various "Christian" denominations has never been opposed by the "Mormons," neither should it be. Good, substantial buildings are an ornament and benefit to every place where they are erected. Most of the material as well as the labor required therefor is obtained from our midst. A great portion of the money, collected though it be under the falsest of representations, is expended among us. All this adds to the general temporary prosperity. And the Presbyterians have just as good a right to put up these structures and to worship and teach in them as the "Mormons," have to do likewise, providing the land and materials are honestly acquired, and the rights of no person or society are invaded.

But while this perfect freedom is accorded to all, it must not be forgotten that we have just as good a right to see that our children are not perverted as "Christian" missionaries have to take these means to pervert them. The Presbyterians may build, but who shall inhabit? They may open schools, but who shall attend them? They may import teachers experienced in the scholastic training of the world's leading academies, but when they seek to blind the eyes of our children to the wisdom that cometh from above, we need not be so foolish as to play into their hands, nor place our little ones under the control of those who would train them up to despise their pa-

rents and trample upon the priceless jewels of the Majesty on high.

But we may learn lessons from the doings of our enemies. It is in our power to provide schools just as good, just as attractive, and just as well appointed as any that they may establish with means gathered from afar. We have some already. And for the younger scholars there are primary schools all over the Territory. But we need seminaries for advanced class and more high schools for the education of teachers and young ladies who desire to reach loftier heights of learning. The fees and the leading minds of a community will do well to consider this matter seriously and in detail. A general anxiety for the cause of education is very well so far as goes. It has been on the increase among us for several years past. But it is not sufficient. The ways and the means must be studied, and "good intentions" put into practical effect. Our religion is eminently practical in its nature, and it is shown in its results.

We have done exceedingly well in Utah considering our opportunities and hindrances. There some most excellent schools in the Territory. But this is an age of progress and emulation, and we must be alive and awake to the requirements of the times, and rather take the lead than be left behind in the march of intelligence and improvement. We have a host of bright and impressionable children multiplying under our care as the years roll on, and God and our covenants demand that we should train them aright that they may grow up to be mighty champions for the truth as revealed from the heavens. If the children of this world in their generation are shrewd and scheming, let us not be dull and stupid because we will not descend to their level; but, as the wisdom of God is greater than the cunning of the devil, let the Latter-day Saints profit by all the plans that are devised against them, and while chewing the evil of the wicked, pattern after all they possess that is good, having in view the glory of God and the redemption of the race, and particularly the happiness, culture and exaltation of our little ones, in whom are our hopes and the basis of our everlasting dominion in the eternal future.

PUBLIC JUDGMENT AND PRIVATE CONSCIENCE.

AN eastern exchange, attempting to handle a subject that seems to puzzle all who take it up in a spirit of antagonism, says:

"The disciples of Brigham Young proclaim their conscientiousness in accepting the dogma of polygamy, and it is not possible to meet them unless one denies the validity of the authority they set up. So it will have to be with every doctrine that runs counter to the general human sense. The public judgment of what is proper, that is, what squares with the accepted relations of truth, will have to decide."

The writer of the paragraph here quoted strikes at the very root of the tree of religious liberty. The standard which he sets up stops at the point of orthodoxy, condemns all reform, and prevents all change of opinion. Every great measure of improvement and progress has had to meet the opposition of the "general human sense." No system ever introduced by advanced minds, whether religious, social, political or philosophical, has been at once adopted by the majority. The "public judgment" has always been against an innovation.

We would ask, did the Christian religion, when promulgated by the Nazarene and his apostles, "square with" the then "accepted relations of truth?" And seeing how far the professed disciples have departed from its primitive simplicity, how nearly would the teachings and practices of its early expounders "square with the accepted relations of truth," as decided by the various conflicting creeds and articles of faith of discordant modern Christendom.

The only argument left open against us, it appears, is a denial of the authority we set up; that is, the right under the constitution of the land and the liberty granted by Almighty God to practice our religion untrammelled and without