

perstition and wickedness of governors and judges, rulers and ruled, priests and people, from that day to the present, that justice, equity and truth have been obliged to hide at mid day, and flee at midnight, or risk the death of martyrs.

Not that all the inhabitants of the Great American Union have raised the deadly weapon, against the principles of eternal truth;—*Far from it.* Few, comparatively, have been the actual murderers of the Saints many have been *accessory*, before the fact; many have *rejoiced* after the fact; many more have *stepped quietly behind the curtain*, as they supposed, *washed their hands in self complacent innocency*, and whispered in each others ear, "T'was a mean act, but I'm glad he's dead;" While millions, MILLIONS more in their *ignorance thoughtlessness and fear*, have remained quiet and peaceful; and have not considered, that so long as they remain thus, and do not *raise the voice of reprobation* against the *murderers* of God's Prophets, they are *partakers* of the evil *deeds* of their fellow countrymen, and innocent blood is staining the borders of their garments; & a Priest Ridden, ignorant people will have to pay the debt.

Men cannot fight truth, life or salvation without a medium of communication; consequently, when the truth was proclaimed by the Prophet, and men wanted to oppose and fight it, they had to oppose and fight those who believed and received it, who obeyed and practiced it; and those thus receiving the truth, were made the medium of violence against the truth: and the wicked vainly supposed that if they could destroy the channel of communication, that truth itself would cease from the earth. It *has* not been, it *is* not against the Saints, as individuals, that the sword has been drawn. Most of them have lived, for a long time, like other men, respected and beloved by

their neighbors and acquaintances, insomuch that they were sorry to part with them; but, when they embraced the *fulness of truth*, their wicked neighbors could not bear it, they must drive truth from their midst, and the only way they could accomplish it, was to drive the individuals who had received the truth. The only way to get at the truth or falsehood, the good or evil spirit that is in a man, is through the medium of the man himself; hence every man is responsible for his own belief, faith, practice; and the spirit he harbors within himself, whether it be good or evil.

Mormon is the name of an ancient prophet, and signifies *more good*. "Mormonism," a new coined word by the enemy of all righteousness, with which to reproach the Saints of the last days. signifies, ALL TRUTH, PRESENT, PAST and FUTURE; and the "Mormon's" creed is *the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth*; and this creed is what the devil and all his imps are eternally fighting against, and not against the believers of that creed, only, so far as the *truth influences their actions*.

From the first opening of the Book of Mormon by the Prophet Joseph in the State of N. Y. truth found its haters, and the Saints their persecutors; from which they retired to Kirtland, Ohio; and in that State, the Prophet was dragged from his bed at midnight, tarred, feathered, pounded, dragged over the frozen ground by his heels, and left for dead, by professing christian preachers and their followers, who doubtless thought they were doing God service:—but did they think they were protecting Joseph in his constitutional rights?

A Temple was built at Kirtland, and great improvements were made in the town; persecution followed, and the Saints passed on to Missouri, where they were

mocked, scourged, imprisoned, persecuted; their houses burned, goods confiscated, men, women and children indiscriminately massacred, in sight of the constituted authorities; and those who survived, old and young, naked and helpless, driven from Missouri by the exterminating order of Gov. Boggs; while their prophet and his companions were incarcerated in prison, on the edict of a mock court, and fed on human flesh.

The next refuge of the Saints was at Nauvoo; beautiful for situation, but then a land of bushes, swamps, sloughs, musketoes, miasma, fever and ague; a land depopulated by malaria, disease and death; speedily converted into fruitful fields and gardens interspersed with comfortable, and respectable dwellings for twenty thousand inhabitants; abounding with fruit and grain, in great variety; overlooked by the Temple of the Lord; planted and reared at the sacrifice of thousands of lives by an unhealthy climate, and constant fatigue in watching the mob, to prevent the midnight incendiary and assassin. When Joseph the Prophet, and Hyrum the Patriarch, were massacred in Carthage Jail, by the hands of a daylight mob, while under the arrest and supervision of Governor Thomas Ford, and pledge of the faith of the State and while his excellency was satiating his appetite, at the table of his murdered victim, in the city of Nauvoo. O ye Gods of Eternity, did not the Heavens think that this infernal treachery of plighted faith ought to have satisfied all hell?

But were the sons of earth satisfied, with the sacrifice? Let the burning houses and grain stacks. The murdered women and children of Hancock county answer;—Let the officers and Soldiers of Governor Ford, who were sent to Hancock, to prevent the Legally constituted authorities of said county from fulfilling their oaths,