

The Deseret Weekly.

PUBLISHED BY
THE DESERET NEWS COMPANY,
SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH.

SUBSCRIPTION PRICE
Per Year, of Fifty-two Numbers, . . . \$2.50.
Per Volume, of Twenty-six Numbers, . . . 1.50.
IN ADVANCE.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, . . . EDITOR.

Saturday, . . . January 12, 1889.

AVOID CONTENTION.

RECENTLY we treated briefly upon the present situation of affairs in the world, showing how precisely some of the pointed predictions of Joseph Smith the Seer had been and were being fulfilled. The Saints, in this connection, were warned against being influenced by the false spirits by which the people abroad generally were being swayed. Special attention was directed to the spirit of contention cropping out in various forms and in every place, this being the genius of war with which the nations, according to the prophecies of Joseph Smith, are soon to be distracted. When this spirit increases and is fed and fanned, it ultimately bursts into open flame.

It is exceedingly important that the disposition to divide does not obtain in the midst of the Latter-day Saints. If it is allowed to grow, then there is trouble ahead in its most distasteful form. There is no affliction so great as that which ensues from internal contention. Outside pressure in the form of persecution is frequently the cause of greater good than ill, if there are no interior jarring elements, because it tends to still greater solidification, which means increased strength.

Observation increases solicitude for the avoidance of division and contention in the midst of the community. Instances arise which indicate the incipient stages of pulling apart. They appear in various shapes. Some are in the form of doctrinal theories. Someone is struck with an idea of a novel character, or it may be a new thought revamped. Without due consideration it is given to the people as teaching. Probably not sufficient weight is given by the exponent of the particular theory to the necessity of ascertaining whether it comports with the revelations of Jesus Christ, or, in other words, whether or not it is true. Should it happen to be unsound, hurtful impressions

are made, offenses are produced, and division and contention ensue.

Nothing is clearer in connection with the Gospel than that its expounders should be sure that their teachings are upon a sound basis. If there is a discrepancy between a favorite individual theory and the revelations given to the Church, the theory should go out of sight, especially so far as teaching it to the people is concerned.

Business difficulties are a prolific source of division and a cause of much ill-feeling. In these affairs each should keep in mind the Christian axiom, "It is better to suffer wrong than to do wrong." If the parties on each side were fully imbued with this disposition, differences would be comparatively easy of settlement. Each would seek not to gain advantage over his neighbor, but to reach the justice of the question at issue. When selfishness is eliminated from a controversy this is easy of ascertainment, and the matter is adjusted on that basis. That one party to a difficulty is unreasonable provides no excuse for the other being influenced by the same spirit. Justice demands that when a person feels he is wronged he should make every effort to convince the offender of the fact, but that does not mean that he should quarrel about the matter or encourage and cultivate in his heart a spirit of revenge, even when he knows he has been injured.

Jealousies in business matters are despicable in every form. So are jealousies in every department of life. If one man sees another prospering to a greater degree than he is, envy should not enter his soul. No man is willing to acknowledge that he is animated by this sinister sentiment. But there is no need that he should. The evidence of its presence is unmistakable. Whenever he decries, condemns or sneers at those he esteems to be his rivals, these are but the poisonous outgrowths of the canker, the seeds of which he has permitted to be planted in his mind. The sooner he tears the unsightly shrub out by the roots the better it will be for his spiritual growth. Otherwise his soul will shrivel and wilt. These jealousies constitute an element of division. They have operated in that way from the beginning, and they are more active now than they should be, by a long way.

To be jealous of another from any cause is bad in root and branch. If there be men who cannot see an-

other advance beyond their own status, intellectually or temporally, they are lacking in one of the chief constituents of greatness. The expansive soul rejoices at the increase of intelligence and prosperity, because it swells the beneficent effect upon the whole.

Every harsh spirit should be avoided by those whose duty it is to minister among the people—especially in the spiritual things of the kingdom. Its application may produce in some a seeming conformity to what is desired, but when that is the cause of a change of conduct the reformation is not lasting. To comfort, as well as instruct, is one of the highest functions of a servant of God. Thunder and forked lightning may terrify, but it is the gentle dew and genial sunshine which soothe, freshen, and make glad. Electric storms are needful occasionally to clear the atmosphere, but happily they are far apart, while the pattering rain, succeeded by the smiles and warmth of the orb of day, are the cheering and productive, life-giving conditions of the elements.

In a revelation which opens on page 349 of the Book of Doctrine and Covenants, the Lord shows clearly the chief cause of afflictions which visited the Church in its early rise. We quote: "Behold, I say unto you, there were jarings and contentions, and envyings, and strifes, and lustful and covetous desires among them." Seeing that the spirit of contention is abroad in the earth, and as it is plain that every spirit that sweeps over the world finds some foothold among the Saints, special care should be taken to note the nature of causes of division and to act accordingly by shunning them. It may be safely said that he who gives way to the spirit of contention will be sure to get into serious trouble.

THE JURY LIST.

THE annual selection of two hundred names of suitable persons to serve as grand and petit jurors is conducted under what is known as the Poland law. The choosing is done from the roll of taxpayers, and the operators are the Probate Judge of the County in which the district court holds its sessions, and the clerk of the district court.

The statute recognized two somewhat distinct classes in the community, and as the clerk was presumed to belong to one and the Probate Judge to the other, the measure