

APOCRYPHAL EVIDENCE

OF THE TEN TRIBES INHABITING THE REGION OF THE NORTH POLE.

SALT LAKE CITY,
March 18th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

The Salt Lake Herald of the 16th inst. contains a very interesting article in defense of the Apocrypha, signed by "M." which I think well deserves the writer's name in full.

When I was a boy of only 13 or 14 years—and that was in the year 1833 or 1834—I had the inestimable privilege of fixing my eyes upon a young man of about 25 summers, and I never was so impressed either before or since that time by the visage of mortal man. And when I heard him speak words of inspiration and revelation, to me he spoke as I never heard a man speak before. As a result, the memory of his appearance and also of many of his words is most vividly impressed upon my mind, and clings to it as the ivy does to the majestic oak of the forest, around which it is entwined. I anticipate, too, that the tendrils of those early memories will continue to entwine themselves around my heart and mind while time shall endure.

It was in the Territory of Michigan that I first met this remarkable person, who was no other than the despised and maligned young Prophet and Seer Joseph Smith. And the apocrypha is associated with one of the scenes in which he figured which is impressed upon my mind.

He was looking over a large old English Bible which contained the Apocrypha, as well as the Illustrated book of Martyrs, which, by the way, he borrowed and took with him to Ohio and Missouri. Of the Apocrypha, while looking over the book, he said: "This, as well as the Bible, contains many precious truths; but, as it has passed through uninspired hands, it requires much wisdom and the inspiration of the Holy Spirit to select and divide the truth from the error."

He esteemed it as of value and true equally with the Bible as far as its truth was concerned, but said the time would come when we would have correct translations of all those books, and then they would be more easily understood.

Since reading M.'s article on the Apocrypha, I opened to the 13th chapter of II Esdras, and I find striking proofs of scientific researches. I refer to the North Pole expeditions which have proven so disastrous to life. Yet the indomitable spirit of man still inspires him to continue his researches for an open country still north of the explored limits. The evidences accumulated through past adventures are confirmatory of the fact that there is a land inhabited by a numerous population of intelligent and interesting beings; and I offer as Biblical proof of this fact, that the majority of the Ten Tribes of Israel journeyed to the North Pole region.

The 13th chapter of II Esdras, 39th to the 46th verses, says: "And whereas, thou sawest that he gathered another peaceable multitude unto him; Those are the ten tribes, which were carried away prisoners out of their own land in the time of Osea the king, whom Salinasar, the King of Assyria led away captive."

But they took this counsel among themselves, that they would leave the multitude of the heathen, and go forth into a further country, where never mankind dwelt, that they might there keep their statutes, which they never kept in their own land, and they entered into Euphrates by the narrow passage of the river, for the Most High then showed signs for them, and held still the flood, till they were passed over, for through that country there was a great way to go, namely, of a year and a half;—and the same region is called Arasereth. Then dwell they there until the latter time."

Future explorations may develop more fully the existence of those tribes who inhabit the north country; for I believe they do exist in that region and that they will eventually communicate with their friends, and thus prove that Esdras, prophetically told us of their journeying into that north country, to which by their slow means of transit, it took them a year and a half to perform the journey.

EDWARD STEVENSON.

ITEMS FROM BANNOCK STAKE.

CEDAR BUTTES,
Bingham County, Idaho,
March 13th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

The past winter has been uncommonly light in this region. Snow at no time has been more than six inches deep. Cattle have wintered on the range and many of them are now good beef.

A GOOD COUNTRY.

The snow is all gone and some of our early farmers are plowing. All are making calculations to plant large crops, both of small grain and vegetables, so those coming to this goodly land need not fear but what they can get everything in that line here this fall, and much cheaper than it can possibly be shipped here on the railroad at the present high rates.

SETTLERS WANTED.

This ward wants forty or fifty more families, and good, industrious Latter-day Saints are preferred. There is abundance of good land here, and any amount of good, pure water; in fact,

water is a little too plentiful. We want mechanics here of all kinds, and I know of no better place for some of the many surplus ones in your already overstocked city, to get homes than here.

We want a good shoemaker; send us one if possible. We have to go twenty miles, to Eagle Rock to get a 25 cent job done, and then pay 50 cents for it.

A CURIOUS DEATH.

On the 7th inst., a two-and-a-half year old daughter of O. P. and Anna Drake was playing with the butt end of a No. 10 brass shot gun shell when she playfully put it into her mouth, and, throwing her head back, accidentally swallowed it. It lodged in the esophagus, about half way down, and remained there for four days and nights. Dr. Beane, of Eagle Rock, was sent for, but could do nothing for the little sufferer. The only nourishment taken for four days and nights was a little milk, as no solid food could pass the obstruction. Wednesday evening, the 11th inst., she died in great agony.

HEALTH.

There are a few cases of measles here, but with this exception the health of the people is excellent. We are about 300 inhabitants in this ward, and there has not been a death from sickness of any kind for twelve months, how is that for a healthy country?

POLITICS

seem to be just about dead. The anti-"Mormons" are very quiet just now; I presume they are mustering their forces for the next term of the District Court, which meets in May.

LAND JUMPING

is being indulged in by some. Sheriff Taylor just took a man to Eagle Rock, who, it is said, has perjured himself in a land jumping case.

Respectfully,
R. L. BYBEE.

ST. GEORGE STAKE QUARTERLY CONFERENCE.

A series of meetings comprising the St. George Stake Quarterly Conference has just closed.

President John D. T. McAllister presided, and was supported by his Counselors, and a very full representation from the wards of the Stake, both officers and people.

The meetings began at 2 p. m. Friday, the 13th inst., by a Conference of the Relief Societies and Young Ladies' Mutual Improvement Associations; this was followed by the Conference of the High Priests at 4 p. m. The usual Conference business and reading of reports were attended to, and pertinent instructions given.

At 10 a. m. Saturday morning, the Stake Conference began its sessions, which were continued through the day and during Sunday.

The preaching from various prominent brethren was excellent.

The usual business of reading quarterly reports and presenting and voting for authorities was attended to.

Bishops of the wards, without exception, reported their people as in an improved spiritual condition, increasing in union, in faith and good works, a decided advance being generally apparent in obeying the Word of Wisdom. Sunday Schools, Primaries, Improvement Associations, Relief Societies and acting Priesthood, were all shown to be in an active condition. In a word, the Spirit and blessings of God abound unto His people.

JAMES G. BLEAK,
Stake Clerk.

EXPRESSIONS FROM THE PEOPLE.

TRUE RELIGION DEMANDS A HALT.

Editor Deseret News:

Religion and its practice has from time immemorial met with the most formidable opposition, and in many instances has had to succumb to the popular clamor. Its votaries have fallen victims to the hate of their fellows by millions; while mountains, dens and caves have been used as hiding places for tens of thousands who have fled from the fury of their

BLOODTHIRSTY PERSECUTORS.

The pages of history abound with these horrible recitals back as far as the murder of Abel by Cain, and though succeeding generations have each in their turn perused these pages and loudly condemned their ancestors as barbarous in the extreme, yet a few decades have barely escaped until similar scenes have been enacted, and that too by those who were so loud in their denunciation of the past.

It is nearly six thousand years since the first existence of man upon the earth, and yet this opposition to religion is as bitter as ever: so bitter, that even to-day blood is demanded if religion will not yield, so determined are mankind that it shall not exist. And thus has history repeated and re-repeated itself down to this enlightened nineteenth century.

A FORM OF RELIGION

can be and always was tolerated and allowed to exist undisturbed, but the religion of the heavens, that possesses within itself principles, doctrines, laws, ordinances and powers bestowed by God, is as unpopular as ever; while the advocates of such a religion are made to feel the full force of the wrath of the professedly Christian but unbelieving world.

THE VITALITY OF TRUE RELIGION

is something wonderful to contemplate. Despite the many times that it has been crushed out of sight, it has nevertheless as repeatedly sprung up again, lacking in no particular any of its vital powers, but fastening its roots and fibres so firmly in the affections of men that death itself has been powerless to sever the same. And it would seem as if the present age were very anxious to add to the list of former martyrs, and thus bequeath to their descendants the privilege of canonizing those whom they themselves have slain; excusing their wicked acts as past ages have done, by declaring that those in the past were good men, while these are most vile and worthy only of death.

That there is a

WRONG SOMEWHERE

nobody will deny. Is it in true religion? This cannot be, because it has incorporated within itself every principle of virtue and morality that characterizes the very highest type of humanity, while it severely condemns everything that is low or degrading.

Is the wrong then in its devotees? This also is impossible; none but the purest minds could possibly subscribe to principles of so elevated a character, for does it not demand the sacrifice of everything that is corrupt and impure?

Then if the wrong is not in the religion itself, neither in its adherents, where does it exist? It must be with the other party, for they are the only ones left. Let us consider wherein they can justify themselves or their acts of persecution, for it has ever been

THE SAME IN ALL AGES.

True religion is and must of necessity be aggressive, in that it condemns all wrong doing and all false doctrine, but it never was aggressive to the extent of compelling man to submit to its principles and laws; for it is an eternal principle in the heavens that man must be left to the free exercise of his own agency. John the Baptist said "The axe is laid unto the root of the trees: every tree therefore which bringeth not forth good fruit is hewn down, and cast into the fire;" thus showing that true religion can only accept of, and retain that that is worthy of salvation. Neither can it yield one principle nor one practice that pertains to it and be justified. No not even if life itself should be the forfeit.

THE UNBELIEVING WORLD

do not comprehend this, consequently have no sympathy with its followers, hence the bitter persecutions that are inaugurated to compel the sacrifice. Man receives flattery and fulsome praise graciously, but stubbornly resents reproof, and true religion has always dealt largely in the reproving of evil with which the world has ever abounded. False doctrine, no matter how precious it may have become to its adherents, always received a full share of its attention and consideration; not in blatant denunciation, but by an appeal to reason, and also by comparison with correct principles, laws and ordinances. If such efforts are fruitless to convince, then the labor ceases, and the individual is left to the free exercise of his own choice.

This is the full extent of the aggression of true religion. If it should go beyond this it would transcend the habits of its powers and stand condemned of heaven. It is not a fact then, that the bitter hate that always did and does now exist towards true religion lies in the consciousness of its superiority as well as in an unwillingness on the part of the world to yield either the false doctrines or the corrupt practices required by it.

We claim for "Mormonism that it is THE TRUE RELIGION,

And challenge the world to disprove our position. We have invited profound theologians and Christian divines to compare notes in friendly discussion, taking the Bible as the standard; this they have done in nearly every part of the civilized world; with one result—

THE TRIUMPH OF "MORMONISM."

We have asked the profound philosopher and the learned physiologist to look deeply into and take time to fully consider the merits and demerits of that one very objectionable feature of our faith and practice—

POLYGAMY—

And then decide. They too have declared our position as impregnable. Yet in the face and eyes of such overwhelming and incontrovertible testimony, fools about themselves hoarse with invectives and foul epithets against us and demand unjust, prescriptive, tyrannical (aye, we still repeat it) and unconstitutional laws to be enacted and then enforced with the severest rigor possible to suppress this religion that has proved itself invulnerable against every justifiable and righteous attack.

Our antagonists are chagrined beyond endurance at the thought that we are so very correct, who are so opposite to them, in the truthfulness of our religion, demanding, as it does, the very highest standard of morality to which they are not willing to submit, that they chafe and fret to have removed from before their eyes the mirror that plainly exhibits their false and untenable religious forms and ceremonies as well as their vile and polluting practices. Having succeeded in obtaining the necessary legislation to suit their purpose they have, under cover of this, inaugurated a system of persecution and bitter hate that is worthy of the dark ages about which

they themselves so loudly prate and unqualifiedly condemn.

They reiterate the cry, though in different language,

"CRUCIFY HIM, CRUCIFY HIM,"

For the same spirit that prompted this demand before Pontius Pilate now asks for the full enforcement of the unjust laws made purposely to satisfy this wicked revenge against the handful of God-fearing people who live in the Rocky Mountains.

Who are our accusers? Jesus said to the accusers of the woman caught in the very act: "He that is without fault, cast the first stone;" or, in other words—He that is without fault, execute the law. Could they do it? no; they shrank away because they knew they were corrupt.

We now use the same language to those who are so anxious to have the law enforced, for the guilty should not be permitted to condemn the guilty; this is recognized as a just principle the world over. We throw down the gauntlet and challenge you to the contest and say: If you are the protectors of innocence, the defenders of virtue, the exemplars of righteousness, then there is some justification for your acts; but if, on the other hand you sacrifice virtue at the shrine of wicked lust; if you pander to unholy appetites and base desires, and leave, unprotected and uncared for, the victims of your hellish passions—then hide your heads in shame from this time henceforth and forever, and never again look in the face the man who dares to provide for, shelter and protect every one who has a claim upon him to call her by the sacred name of wife. If those now in power are

PURE BEFORE HEAVEN,

or if there can be found such to sit in the judgment seat, to prosecute, condemn and sentence the Mormons who shall appear before them accused of the crime of polygamy, let them do so to the full extent of the law, and we will offer no opposition.

But until this can be done we

CALL A HALT.

We call it in the name of consistency! We call it in the name of decency! We call it in the name of right! We call it in the name of honor! We call it in the name of justice! We call it in the name of religion! We call it in the name of God, whose Only Begotten Son set the example!

You have accused us before the nation as a people; you now accuse us before the courts as individuals; you say you have the evidence. We reply you have nothing more positive than that against the woman who was caught in the very act, and in the language of Scripture we repeat: If you are without fault, proceed; if not, leave the ground until those that are worthy can be found to execute the law.

JUSTICE.

SALT LAKE CITY, March 18th, 1885.

EXPRESSIONS FROM THE PEOPLE.

THE BEAVER WING OF THE ANTI-"MORMON" ONSLAUGHT.

BEAVER CITY, March 18, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

Simultaneous with the opening of the Second Judicial District Court, arrived a Josephite haranguer, by the name of Anthony, who has been holding a series of meetings in the Methodist Chapel. His preaching consists of a species of raving and howling against the Latter-day Saints, and their marital relations. He labors hard, with such as give him audience, to make them believe that a rotten egg is not offensive to the organs of smell. His apparent object was to intensify the feeling of deadly hate, that the aforesaid cowardly declaimer supposed would be at a white heat against the people. The court, Josephite and Methodist combination, with their big calculations of a few weeks ago, are turning out like the blacksmith who started in with ample materials to make a two inch auger, but after trying hard, failed to make a gimlet and stuck the hot iron in the water tub and made a grand sizzle.

Many witnesses and friends of constable Pace have arrived here from Panguitch to be at his trial. Ten jurors out of twenty-seven have been impeached on this case. Those rejected have been discharged. Eight more names have been drawn from which to select the other two jurors. It is generally understood that at the close of this trial, the court will adjourn till May. This will make three cases tried before the petit jury this term. Our prosecuting attorney, as a catechist, on delicate matters, such as prying into the secrets of the bed-chamber of married folks, has few equals, when taking into consideration his youth and presumed lack of experience, he not being a man of a family. However, the attorney lacks in some things. At a horse race the other day, during the excitement, when the running qualities of the two competing animals were eloquently set forth, he bet twenty-five dollars on the wrong horse and lost it.

The term of court which is about to expire, was looked forward to as an event that would annoy and harass many of the people of this district. To a certain extent this has been so. Nevertheless, the outcome will have a good effect in uniting the people. The actors in these scenes of oppression throughout the Territory, will ere long loathe themselves. The future histor-

ian will write them down to posterity as small sized, petty oppressors, who were born out of due time. Notwithstanding the gigantic efforts made on the part of the *Burren Sinker* of the Territory, the water still flows from the mountains, the cows will have calves, the ewes lambs and all creation will move on the even tenor of its way, while these mischievous workers, a few of whom may think they are doing the country good service by trying to stop the onward march of true civilization, will shortly reap the most acute disappointment. MOONSHINE.

"ROUGH ON ITCH."

"Rough on Itch" cures humors, eruptions, ringworm, tetter, salt rheum, frosted feet, chilblains. W

First Comptroller of the Treasury, Durham, assumed the duties of his office to-day.

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