

Correspondence.

The Women and Marriage.

SALT LAKE CITY,
Feb. 11, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

In reading Judge White's charge to the Grand Jury, I thought it would be interesting to him to read a few of the ideas of the majority of the women of Utah on a subject he thought he elucidated.

I will say "we" in this communication, as, knowing the spirit and feelings of thousands of women living in polygamy in this Territory, I am satisfied they would endorse every word of it.

We thank the Judge for his gentlemanly and liberal charge. He did not abuse us, nor call us "degraded," "deluded," "oppressed," &c.; terms that we have been so used to hear from the judicial bench.

As a community he gives us high encomium, and in enumerating our good deeds, he might have added "purity of morals."

It is our opinion that this nation should be proud of having in its domain a few thousand noble, brave, philanthropic women, who dare to help, practically in very deed, to regenerate and exalt their sister women from the state of degradation they are held in in so-called Christian nations.

We, through the influence of our religion, take other women to our homes. We share with them our husband, his heart, his love, his property that some of us have helped to accumulate, his time, his substance. Our religion helps us to overcome our fallen nature and live by principle.

What can the Judge think that such women care for "public opinion?" Not a pin.

Let him ask himself how it is? How can they do as they do and retain their reason?

We will answer him. Sir, it is the love we have for our religion and its principles, and for our husbands, and the implicit faith and trust we have in God, that help us.

Dare the Judge, President Grant, or any man in this nation, outside this church, mention to his wife one word about taking another wife? But do men generally keep from all other women but their wives? "Aye, there's the rub." We presume not. But if the above suggestion were made, there would be such a scene, as they themselves know, as would take the pen of a Shakespeare or Dickens to portray, and then hardly. How is it with us? Our well and dearly loved husbands come and say, "Mary, I intend taking another wife. I saw Kate Jones the other day; she seems a good girl, and I think I would like her. What do you think?" This is generally the answer given, although with palpitating heart, "Marry her, and the Lord helping me, I will try and act right towards you both." After a while it comes Kate's turn for the same scene to be enacted. Her answer is the same. It is no uncommon occurrence here now. What can be done with such women? Don't they laugh at "public opinion?"

We look on polygamy to be a strong pillar of the truest, purest and best religion on the earth. No matter what the "public opinion" of the whole world says to the contrary.

For any man, or set of men, aye, or all so-called Christendom, to say that polygamy is no part of our religion, is folly, ridiculous nonsense. If they understood anything of human nature, or common sense, they would know better; for God, and God alone, the founder of our holy religion, could uphold us in our sacrifice.

Can they not give us credit for extensive liberality, and let us alone, pass no laws to afflict or annoy us? Let them try the experiment. Yes, that is the word. Try the experiment whether so-called Christianity, with all its trumpeted and boasting civilization, or the Latter-day Saint Church, can do the most towards totally eradicating prostitution, and, if you like, I will say once for all, all the crimes known in the calendar, putting them out of existence for ever. I have an idea we would win the prize. The Lord helping, we would come out the conqueror.

You will think we think a good deal of ourselves. We do, indeed we do. But without the help of the true God, we are nothing. He

gives the command to practise polygamy, his people obey. He will preserve them in the future, as in the past.

It was God, not "public opinion," that preserved us when President Buchanan sent out the flower of the American army here. It was God, not "public opinion," that turned to our use and service the United States property they brought here. We must say we don't care for 40,000,000, or 40,000,000,000 either, of "public opinion," so long as we keep the laws and commands given by the God of heaven. If we have him and his armies for us, we are safe from all the powers of the earth, and all hell to back them.

This being the expressed feelings of the women of Utah, what can be done with us? Will polygamy be done away with because "public opinion" and the Congress of the United States may say so? We presume not, any way they can fix it, as long as they are magnanimous enough to leave alive one man and from two to seven women belonging to this church.

FIDELIA.

Condition of the World—Men Wanted—Privileges of the Saints.

BRIGHTON, Jan. 15, 1876.

To the Members of the Y. M. M. I. Association, Provo, U. T.

DEAR BRETHREN—I have heard with much joy from time to time of your progress and success, and the spirit with which you have taken hold of so good an opportunity of improving yourselves individually and reforming our young brethren in general.

Since I came to this land, I have, through the tender mercies of God, been prospered in my labors as a minister of the gospel. I have received blessings even more than I am worthy of. I have gained already an experience that will ever be with me for good, and I hope will benefit not only me but those also with whom I may in the future be associated. The first thing that attracted my attention particularly was the frightful condition of mankind with regard to every species of wickedness that Satan has in store for those that will receive it. We read and hear the Priesthood talk about the judgments that are to come upon the earth. If they are not here now, I don't know what they will be when they come. They are no longer in the future, but they are being poured out upon the world this day. When I behold the terrible condition of the human family, I lift my heart in thanks to God for our condition in the mountains, and I would urge you, my brethren, to improve the golden opportunity you have of acquainting yourselves with the principles of life and salvation, so that you may be able to do your part in extricating your fellow-man from the cells of darkness and the strong chains of the enemy of truth. Store your minds with principle while yet you have a chance, and learn the ways of righteousness, for surely the harvest is great and the laborers are but few, and there is a work for every son of God who loves his fellow-man. Brethren, men are wanted in the world. The world is perishing for MEN. We have in the church more true hearted men than all the world besides contains. There are millions of masculines in the world, but the men are very, very few. MEN are wanted, not masculine personifications of empty-headed corruption, not brainless, street-walking, lounging idiots, and boasting egotists, but noble-souled, high-minded, pure-hearted men. The present condition of society has every tendency for furthering the purposes of the devil in the future. The corruption of every generation makes the following one weaker, and, consequently, diminishes the already very, very few true men.

The gospel of Jesus Christ teaches us what God intended for a man to be, and by obeying its principles and acting according to the dictates of its spirit, it will make just such men of us as God will use to bring about his righteous purposes upon the earth. We have within our grasp those diamond principles which, if we will obey, will lead us in the paths of knowledge, wisdom, virtue, righteousness and true manhood, and will prepare us to be instrumental in the hands of God in building up his kingdom upon the earth, and make of us brilliant lights in the midst of the society of the saints of the Most High.

I would exhort you, brethren, to never grow weary in your research-

es after the principles of the gospel of heaven, but ever bear in mind we have truth on our side, and by continued well doing, eternal life. It is the only way the human family can regain the presence of the Father, whether they believe it or not. The wisdom of man cannot change the will of God. It was hard to handle a blind world in the days of our blessed Savior, and notwithstanding the miraculous signs that accompanied his coming into the world, and the many supernatural works he performed, the world denied and crucified him.

The powers of darkness are ever at work trying to overthrow the work of God, and they are strong.

Jesus said that strong delusions should come, even, if it were possible, to deceive the very elect. Hence, brethren, the necessity of being continually on the watch-tower, and never neglecting our prayers, that we give Satan no chance to take hold of us, that he throws no veil over our minds and poisons them. Study the prophecies of holy men of God in other ages, when the priesthood has been upon the earth—men to whom the heavens have been unveiled, and they have been made to see through the mist of future ages and declare what should take place upon the earth. Compare those prophecies with the present condition of the world, and behold them fulfilled.

My experience has taught me to begin with small things first. If the members of the Association will not grow weary in studying the first principles of the Gospel, but will confine themselves closely to them until the priesthood see they are prepared for something else, they will never regret it. Upon the first principles is everything built. They must be complied with before the believer can derive any benefit or blessing from the Gospel. It is more necessary to fully understand them than anything else to one who holds the position of a minister of the Gospel. There is enough to be learned about them to keep the Association busy this winter and next, and another winter too. There is something new ever to be found in them.

I am ever anxious to hear of your improvement, and feel that the Lord has set his hand to reform the youth of Zion and prepare them for the things that await them; and I hope that the Association of Provo will lead out and set an example worthy of other cities to follow, and be in very deed an association of mutual improvement. The material is in the church for the noblest men of the earth. The children of the Latter-day Saints are truly diamonds in the rough, and the Gospel is the legitimate polish.

I would exhort you also, brethren, to study yourselves, and see how near right your daily walk, talk and conversation are. Let improvement ever be foremost with you. Seek to become men of courage, men of fortitude, men of superior intelligence, men who can resist temptation, who aspire to nobleness of intellect and purity of character, rather than to be lovers of frivolities. Be men whose influence tends to lead all about you in the paths of wisdom, truth, virtue, and purity. Be men who can resist evil, and battle with the stern realities of life nobly. Let these be your aspirations, and God will bless you to that end. As a member of the Association and a friend to all, I am ever praying for your success in the gospel.

My epistle has partaken of the nature of exhortation, but I have written as the spirit has led me. I would be happy, indeed, to have the privilege of meeting with you and talking upon the first principles of the gospel. I could appreciate it now, I assure you.

In conclusion, now, I will exhort you to hold to the old ship Zion, for God is at the helm, and he will steer her safely through, and she will withstand all the fiery darts of Satan, and stem the mighty tide of opposition, and finally reach the harbor of eternal rest, where the Saints will be able to rejoice together, without having Satan to oppose and fight against, and the Lord wants all on board to do their share in furthering his designs. Lastly, honor and obey the priesthood of God upon the earth.

Your brother and friend,
A. O. SMOOT, JR.

BERLIN, 11.—It is officially announced that the German squadron in Chinese waters will be considerably reinforced for the suppression of piracy.

Society Here and in the World.

MILL CREEK WARD,
March 3, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

I have just been reading, in your issue of Feb. 23, Mrs. D. B's letter, your Chicago lady correspondent. She seems to be a woman of large views, liberal sentiments, and keen observation. It is one of the best pieces I have seen written by one not of our faith. It is new and rare in this day for a woman to speak and advocate the rights of a polygamous community. We women think it an honor to our husbands to have more wives than one. With all due deference to the lady, she must take care or else she will lose caste among friends by advocating our rights. What a sad picture she draws of society! I think if some people outside of Utah, and some inside too, would pull the beam out of their own eyes, they might see better how to pull the mote out of ours. It is all too true what she says of the looseness of society. I have seen criminals, who were guilty of every crime in the calendar, and were condemned to suffer death, treat it with levity, and ministers, who profess to preach the Gospel of Christ, who would go and take sacrament and give it to those fellows, then get a confession from them, then give them a passport to the regions of glory, then proclaim them sinners saved in the eleventh hour, taking for a pretext the sayings of Jesus while on the cross to the dying thief—"This day shalt thou be with me in Paradise." Such is society at the present time.

Mrs. D. B. seems to think the recent action of the 23,600 women of Utah proves that they have a religion. Yes, we have a religion, and love it, and also try to live it. "O," says one, "your religion is not popular." God grant that it never may be, according to their notions of popularity.

Say they, "Your husbands do not have kept mistresses." No, our husbands rather choose to make wives of all the virtuous women they can get. If all the men in the nation would do the same, the social evil would soon be a thing of the past. I was reading a certain doctor's book, of New York city, a week or so ago. His notions of polygamy are very strange and erroneous ones. I think it would pay him to come and see our children; it would be a much better show than Barnum can produce. I think our children will show the nation some of their strength. I think Uncle Sam is under great obligations to the "Mormons" for raising such a community of children for him. Let the casual observer look at the decadence of the American class of people, and then ask seriously if there is not something rotten in society. I hope and trust that Uncle won't be mean with us and superciliously ignore our petition.

Respectfully, a woman's rights woman.
I. P. W.

District Meeting—Baptism—Increased Attendance—Good Prospect.

NEWCASTLE-ON-TYNE, England,
February 8th, 1876.

Brother W. C. Dunbar.

We had a very interesting time last Sunday (Feb. 6th) at Sunderland. The Saints belonging to the Durham and Newcastle conference held a district meeting, according to appointment, in Westall's Academy, South Durham, Sunderland. The meeting was announced for several days previous, in the columns of the Sunderland Echo. At 10:30 a. m. the meeting commenced with singing and prayer, after which the presidents of the various branches gave in their reports of their fields of labor, which were very cheering. A few baptisms were reported.

Meeting again at 2 p. m. One person was confirmed, one child blest, and sacrament administered, after which Elder Nelson, of Provo, spoke a few minutes and bore his testimony to the truths of the gospel. I followed Brother Nelson, with the subject of Utah and the "Mormons." The Saints and the strangers listened with a great deal of attention, and many expressed themselves well pleased and would come again in the evening.

At 6 p. m. the meeting recommenced, when Elder Middleton, of the Sunderland branch, delivered a short but excellent discourse on the first principles of the gospel. I followed and spoke on President

Young's policy in Utah and on the baptism of the Indians.

Strangers came to me at the close of the meeting, and expressed themselves well pleased with what they had heard, and also expressed a desire to read our works. I agreed to furnish them with tracts. At the close of each meeting the brethren distributed a good many circulars as the strangers went out.

Last Sunday was the largest turn out of strangers to our meetings in Sunderland for nearly the last ten years. A short but favorable article appeared in the Echo of yesterday, the 7th. I trust that better days are about to dawn once more on the church in Sunderland. The gospel has been preached for a little over thirty years in that town, and I believe that there are still many honest souls there, who will yet receive the gospel. Three expressed themselves as about ready to be baptized. I can assure you that I never felt better in the gospel, and with the Lord's help and that of my brethren I intend to leave no stone unturned that will tend to advance the great work of the latter days. Respectfully,
A. GALLOWAY.

Manufactures—Improvements—Meetings—Improvement Societies—Dramatic and other Entertainments—Sickness—City Ignorance of the Country People, etc.

HYRUM CITY, Cache Co.,
Feb. 20th, 1876.

Editor Deseret News:

During the past season we have been very successful in manufacturing lumber, shingles, lath, also butter and cheese, and the farmers were also successful with their crops, and very many handsome and commodious dwelling houses have been erected, together with substantial barns and picket fences, and other improvements. These, with the vast number of trees, give our city a very pleasing appearance.

The winter is passing very pleasantly, and interesting too. The quorums are very punctual in holding their meetings, and enjoy the good counsel and instruction given.

The young men have organized a mutual improvement society, and have weekly meetings, J. E. Fogg president. The following are some of the subjects spoken upon—"What is Proper Behavior?" "Faith," "Finance and Economy." Bishop Liljenquist gave the lecture on "Finance," and from the facts and figures presented it was evident to all that retrenchment was necessary. These meetings are crowded, and this shows the interest that is taken by the young and by the older people. The young ladies have a similar organization, attended with good results.

We have a good Sabbath school, under the management of A. A. Allen, also three day schools, under the management of C. C. Shaw, J. E. Fogg, and Mrs. Barnum and daughter.

The Hyrum Dramatic Association have been very busy this winter and have done their best to entertain the people.

We have not been persecuted this winter with the usual monkey shows, magic lantern, learned pig, live lion, &c. In times past, no sooner had the farmer garnered his grain than the learned professors, with all that is wonderful, were on hand, ready to carry off his cash and grain, and give nothing in return.

We have had one genuine treat—the panorama from ocean to ocean, and our people were so well pleased that the proprietors gave two exhibitions.

We have had much sickness, and some of our children have died of throat disease, but the ordinances of the gospel have been the means of saving many who were stricken with this dreadful disease.

Our parties have been closed at 10 p. m., and this is a great improvement.

I was sorry to learn of the fearful ignorance of some people in your city, for the Governor, certainly, had no opportunity (nor his informants apparently) of judging the country people, as they have never been to see us.

Gov. Axtell, in his visit to this place last summer, expressed his surprise and great pleasure in finding good order, thrift and industry everywhere present, and complimented the people on their intelligent appearance.

It has been the custom in all ages for nations in jubilees and on grand