

[COMMUNICATED.]

NATIONALITY. WHAT IS IT?

From time immemorial mankind for offense and defense have been bound together by tribal, feudal and national ties. Designing men have for ages fostered both segregation and aggregation as best suited their ambition. When prominent men have been unsuccessful or have fallen in battle, new claimants for power have risen and made other combinations, obliterating by conquest old lines of demarcation, and erecting new ones as their sway becomes enlarged by conquest or decreased by conflict.

There was ostensible excuse for the rivalries, jealousies, hatreds and wars of the nations of antiquity, for they were less stable and perhaps more aggressive than is modern society and national organization. Yet feuds and controversy are just as potent now in the full blaze of nineteenth century civilization as they ever were in human history, howbeit assertive aggressiveness may be modified by the somewhat changed conditions.

It is nevertheless surprising how an imaginary line can be made to efface the natural desire for human blending, when rulers fan the flame of hatred upon any pretext, real or unreal. Jarring interests, encroachment upon ostensible rights or to accomplish commercial ends and the lust for territorial expansion—each has had its influence. So weak nations have yielded to superior numbers or to more astute diplomacy. Quarrels have been fomented like that between the wolf and the lamb in the fable; the stream (said the wolf) was riled by the drinking lamb, although the waters ran from the former to the latter.

It is as difficult today to give a really philosophical reason why the American Indians should live or have lived in tribal enmity, instead of tribal unity, as to tell why Europe should be one vast camp of armed men, watching each other's movements and living in hourly anticipation of war, as if that ought to be the normal condition of the grandest civilization ever known on earth.

How much of this division, this semi-isolation, is artificial? How much of it is the product of interested kingcraft, priestcraft and the machinations of politicians and so-called statesmen, who have controlled the ignorance, the prejudice, and the so-called patriotism of their respective peoples? Why should peace simply exist by suzerainty between France and Germany, or by power, as between England and Turkey, or the inherited and perpetuated rivalries between any two adjoining or separated nations, running down from generation to generation? Would not the people of France, Switzerland and Germany fraternize if they were independent or rulers who really fatten on the established idea that their interests are as diverse as their language, which after all owes much of its individuality and maintenance to an isolation which all admit is largely artificial?

It is this diseased, perverted condition of division which compels distinction, establishes custom houses, subsidizes the press, creates standing armies, saps industry and well-being through excessive taxation, and makes nations brand their neighbors as foreigners and enemies, and leads through misrepresentation to that hatred which has crimsoned the earth with blood, all in defending an order which is unnatural, superficial, detrimental and as we believe, contrary to that Divine declaration which claims that "God

hath made of one blood all the nations of the earth!"

Why should peoples meddle with and molest each other because of differences in color, in location, in religion, in their industries and products? Is there not room for each to work out its own destiny, and will not the higher civilization supplant the lower by virtue of its own inherent quality without the pressure of self assertion, of mercenary excuse, of religious zealots, or of these unwelcome forces which pave the way for overthrow rather than enlightenment; of destruction rather than conservatism; of annihilation rather than of cautious education, making a conquest of the world and leading the erring to "give their idols to the moles and bats," on accepting the spirit of Christian life in the heart ere its letter reaches the understanding brain?

That men of diverse nationalities can become blended is demonstrated in our glorious Utah, where from the islands of the sea, from the nations and continents of the earth, they have in a few brief years become nearly homogeneous. Marriage and intermarriage; education, secular and religious; social amenities sanctified of opportunity and interest, have made the people one. Prejudice, tradition, education, and a life's training under incompatible institutions have been overcome by the influx of that spirit of peace, order and submission—which was and is according to the teaching of the Master—to finally overthrow all human institutions, and to perfect the rule of righteousness, "peace and good will to man."

Such an amalgamation is possible in our nation, if statesmanship is divinely directed. Out of the jarring, perverse elements, brought here at the instance of temporal suggestion, can be evolved a wondrous whole; an invulnerable body; a truthful, progressive, peaceful, prosperous people, for which Utah gives her brilliant and suggestive illustration and example! And if this is possible here on a limited scale, and on a grander one in our boasting evolution of national unity, could not Europe as a whole under a comprehensive system of rule, obliterate the jealousies, heart burnings and perversities of thought and action? Could not these nations be made easily to believe in the unity and brotherhood of man? Are there not influences reachable that would break down the barriers of ages and sweep the Augean stable of undesirable rivalry and hatred, of national animosity and asserted enmity? even if kingcraft, priestcraft and political intrigue and cunning went with the custom houses, tariffs and all artificial distinctions and distrust; which are after all but the efflorescence or fruit of perverted rule on susceptible humanity continued and cumulative for many a generation!

However much the present condition or that of past ages may vary from the divine thought, it is assured to faith that all the aberrations of human action are so overruled as to finally subserve divine purposes. Out of chronic chaos, out of all perversion, He will bring forth good. Men will not at the behest of uninspired equals divest themselves of nationality; they will be American, English, Germans or Scandinavians—nevertheless, as in the first Christian Church, "there was neither Greeks nor Scythians, bond or free," so in the latter-day Christian Church there will be an higher allegiance than that which belongs to the accident of birth, and little as it may be looked for by enthusiastic nationalists, there is to be a rule which is less sectional and more universal than that of any organization of our time. There is to be a kingdom which will absorb, or, as it

were, "break in pieces all other kingdoms," and stand forever. Men will not be trammelled by restrictions and boundaries, by language or location, by color or climate. Cohesion, unity, power, right, truth will redeem "those who remain" from all the incongruities of man's invention and illegitimate perversion. This will be the Millennial reign of Christ and that undisputed government called "The kingdom of our God!"

This is written in the archives by the scribes of Heaven. The voice of prophecy hath proclaimed, the finger of destiny points out its near approach, and while the superficial and those unduly wedded to transitory things may (as in the case of Joseph Smith and the judge) call this treason, yet will it "surely come to pass." Nay, teeming millions are now praying, "Thy Kingdom come, Thy will be done on earth as in Heaven." The few may deprecate a change, "least of all such a change as this," but all the Prophets who have "borne the burden of the word of the Lord" have spoken of it; all the Saints have looked for it; the eternities have anticipated it; and common honesty and justice will admit that "He who creates hath the right to rule!"

RUSSIA AND THE RUSSIANS.

An appreciative audience of very good proportions assembled at the Salt Lake Theater Wednesday to hear Dr. James E. Talmage's lecture on Russia and the Russians. The subject was most clearly and interestingly treated and illustrated by many magnificent stereopticon views of sights and scenes in the land of the great bear.

The occasion of Dr. Talmage's visit to Russia last summer was the meeting of the International Congress of Geologists in that country. To this congress the doctor went as the official delegate of the Royal Society of Edinburgh; and being there as a guest of the nation he enjoyed opportunity not within the reach of the ordinary traveler in observing the people and the country.

The lecture consisted of an interesting description of sights and scenes in Russia as viewed by a careful and competent observer. There was just enough statistics and other detailed information to support the propositions advanced, without becoming tedious or burdensome. The speaker showed the Russian people to be a greatly misrepresented nation; and one whose power and prestige are continually increasing.

In extent Russia is the largest continuous body of land under the control of any nation. The country comprises one half of Europe and a third of Asia, the equivalent of two Europes or of the whole of North America. Russia comprises one sixth of the land area of the globe. The hemisphere of the moon turned towards us when at the full is smaller than Russia. All the physical features of the country are cast on a colossal plan; plains, forests, rivers, mountains, etc. But there are few indentations of the sea; and such as do exist occur in the inhospitable north. The country is sparsely settled; in some districts only one inhabitant per square mile. Early marriages are encouraged, the men usually marrying at 18, and the girls at 16. The birth rate is high, more than sufficient to counteract the excessively high mortality. Less than half of the children born live to complete their seventh year; of the males but a small proportion reach the age of 21 and a still smaller proportion are able bodied.

The Russian people have long occupied the present central regions of their country. In the ninth century