



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

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"MORMONISM."—INTOLERANCE
TOWARDS IT.

The "Mormons" and "Mormonism" seem to be the standard texts for a great many people, who, whenever they are at a loss for a subject, build homilies upon them, and indulge in a great amount of gratuitous abuse heaped upon a people of whom they know comparatively little, and treating of a subject of which they know still less! To believe most of these scribbles there is no virtue, redeeming quality, commendable practice or praiseworthy act can be found among the Latter-day Saints. They picture us as the foulest and most degraded of civilized communities, and our Territory as a pandemonium in which everything vile and wicked flourishes freely. So absurd are they, and so widely is their abuse disseminated, that all who come here having been at all previously influenced by such statements, are utterly astonished at that which they see and hear. They find us industrious and sober; they do not see the bedizened wretch who has been dragged down to infamy carrying on her unholy traffic in our streets; they look at our citizens and see they are like men and women elsewhere; and if they were dropped down in our streets without knowing where they were; their cause of wonderment would be what city they had reached that was so well ordered, quiet and peaceable.

But we are "Mormons," and there seems to be something in the very name to excite their bile. Every elder who has traveled through the nations, has found how freely and cordially nearly every one whom they would converse, would agree with them while enunciating those principles by which we are led and governed, so long as they did not know it was a Latter-day Saint who was speaking. But as soon as that discovery was made, in most instances there was a marked and sudden change. The very name had an influence with them; and it either stirred up the worst of feelings within them, prompting to acts of malevolence, or it inclined them to seek after a knowledge of the truth.

There is a reason for this, deeper than can be found attending the influence of any sect or party, religious or political, on the earth. They differ with each other and with all the rest continually, and there is no motive sufficiently powerful to bring about a combination of them all but one against that one. Yet, however much they are divided, and however much opposed to each other, they unite, as against a common enemy, all the world over, to oppose and abuse the Latter-day Saints.

This has been true from the day the Church was organized until the present hour. In every country where the gospel has been preached the same fruits have been manifested, and the day a man or a woman in any of the nations of the earth, acting upon conscientious convictions, becomes a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, no matter how highly they were esteemed before, their names are cast

out as evil, themselves reviled, despised, abused, and persecuted where it can be done. These are facts known, often by very, very painful experience, to every Latter-day Saint who has embraced the gospel where the other creeds and beliefs are dominant. And the same intolerant spirit which manifested itself to individuals in low jeers, petty annoyances, throwing rotten eggs, or beating with clubs, in a more extended, malignant and bitter form displayed its violence in the mobbings, burnings, drivings, and merciless acts of cruelty to which the Saints were exposed in a church capacity. And it is the same spirit which to-day vents itself in traducings, malignings, abuse, and hounding on the authorities of the nation to drive us again from our homes, that our enemies may become fat on our spoils.

This thing cannot be glossed over, nor explained away by any effort of sophistry. It stands out in most glaring color, printed in our history with blood, and page-marked with the names of our martyred dead. And they who under the assumed garb of liberty pretend to be willing to accord us the possession of our inalienable rights, while striking at them with all the force they possess, cannot be so divested of common sense as not to know that their inconsistency is as shallow as it is hypocritical. The reasons why we are so abused, hunted down and vilified are easily understood and can be plainly told, though they could well bear more said relative to them than we have space at present. In the first place, the struggle—for struggle it is—now going on is not for the maintenance of a certain principle, or some erratic notion or pet idea entertained by any man or men on the earth; but it is for the possession of a world; it is the "irrepressible conflict" between truth and error, which will not cease until the dominion of Satan ceases upon the earth. In this contest the powers which exist in the unseen world are engaged. The powers of darkness exercise control over the minds of many millions of the human family, and fill them with a bitter and, to most of them, unaccountable hatred to the truth and those who have embraced it. On the other hand the heavens are stirred in behalf of the work called "Mormonism," and the protection of the Almighty has been extended over it from the first.

We wish those who so freely vilify and abuse us, who say they only wish us to give up plurality of wives, or some other doctrine which we may believe or they may merely say we believe, to look the matter squarely in the face, analyze their feelings, and see if they have anything like the same detestation for the wickedness and crime which they admit exist in the world, as they have for the assumed wickedness incorrectly said to exist here. Or have they made up their minds to combat light, truth and virtue; and, while claiming the possession of upright, virtuous feelings, practically declare, with the poet's fiend, "evil be thou my good."

THE COMING RAILROAD.

One of the clearest refutations to the often repeated assertion made against our people, that they desire isolation and to be shut out from the rest of mankind, is the strong desire manifested to see the two lines of the Union Pacific Railroad reaching this city. They think of the long weary journey from the Missouri river, which so many of them have traveled, and earnestly wish for that journey to be shortened for their friends who yet will follow in their path; they look at the high price demanded for all imported goods, machinery, and everything which has to be

freighted here, and they hope to see prices reduced with a quicker, more regular, and cheaper mode of freighting. While many of them anticipate the pleasure of visiting their friends east and west, without the risk, toil and prolonged time expended in such a journey at present.

The lines now being made toward this point, from the east and west, when completed will undoubtedly be the road on which the travel between Europe and the eastern states, and the west of this continent, China, Japan and the East Indies will move. When the journey from London to Bombay can be made in less than one-half the time, by this great overland route, that is occupied in crossing Europe and traveling the route now used, it is but reasonable to think that for quick transit of light and valuable goods, and for purposes of travel, this road will be used. It will thus become a highway for the world, with Great Salt Lake City as a stopping place for the journeying thousands and millions who will pass from either hemisphere.

We desire that time to come, when the world can be disabused of the many foul and malignant slanders which have been so freely circulated, by seeing us as we are, and thus judging of the character of those who have traduced us so grossly. Besides, the growth of the Territories around us, which must ere many years become States, and the formation and growth of New Territories and States in the vast extent of country yet unbroken and undeveloped, will make us the commercial centre of a series of rich and powerful States, to which lines will radiate from this Territory, bearing on them the products of the earth, and the result of man's toil and industry. Our geographical situation is the very best that could be desired; for though we have no place in the Territory where a large and influential seaport might grow up, an immense entrepot for the commerce of nations; we are, by our very position, the natural chosen centre to which the great wealth of the surrounding territory must yet come and through which it will pass.

The speed with which the Pacific railroad progresses gives assurance that it will be but a comparatively short time until communication will be open by it between the two oceans. There are those sufficiently sanguine to believe that by the fall of '68 we will be connected with San Francisco by rail; but if that result should be obtained in '69 the work accomplished from the breaking ground until its completion that far would be immense. And there is little doubt but that, unless something unexpected should arise to retard it, we will be connected with both the Atlantic and Pacific coasts in three years from this fall.

The undertaking is one of the great events of the age. As the laying of the Atlantic cable marked a new era in stretching telegraph wires, so the completion of the line which connects the two mighty oceans, spanning a vast continent, rising over gigantic ranges of mountains, and crossing seemingly impassable deserts, will mark a new era in railroad building; and one that will not be barren of results.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS.—Bishop T. Callister contrasted the condition of the Saints when they entered this valley, twenty years ago, with that of to-day, pointing out how the Lord had blessed, protected and preserved them.

Elder John Van Cott followed on the same subject, reasoning that if we have been prospered and blessed so abundantly during the past twenty years how great must be our growth and prosperity twenty years from now, if we continue in faithfulness.

Elder A. F. McDonald spoke of his early acquaintance with the gospel, and of the blessings that accrue to all who embrace it and live it.

Pres. H. C. Kimball urged the Saints to union of purpose and action in all things, instructing them on the principles of oneness and obedience to the truth and the Priesthood.

AFTERNOON.

Elder George Q. Cannon treated upon the growth of the work of God, and the power and knowledge commensurate with that growth bestowed by the Lord upon His servants, for the accomplishment of His purposes. He showed that the gospel brings union to all who embrace it and obey its principles. The Lord has called His servant to lead His people, and will qualify him for the work that has to be performed; and the people should hearken to his counsels and obey his instructions.

Pres. B. Young, in a discourse replete with valuable and pointed instructions, reasoned the comprehensiveness of the gospel, and its applicability to all the human family. Toward the close he advised the farmers to save the wheat; and intimated that mechanics would soon be called to floor that part of the New Testament which is roofed in, trusting they would be as prompt and energetic in responding to the plasterers and others had been.

THEATRICAL.—On Thursday evening the Theatre re-opened with the Chimney Corner. Mr. Couldock sustaining the character of Peter Probity. This was the first opportunity which we have had of seeing this gentleman who bears so high a reputation as an artist in his line; and we must say that his rendition of the part fully sustained all that we have heard concerning him. It was so natural and life-like, so full of seeming realities, and adorned with so many artistic touches, that the actor was lost sight of in the man, and the audience forgot the mimic stage and seemed carried to the chandler's room and saw the events as if actually transpiring. The applause was frequent and hearty throughout; and at the close of the piece a loud call from the audience brought the gentleman and his daughter, Miss Couldock, before the curtain, where he briefly tendered his acknowledgments of the courteous and warm reception which had been accorded him. Miss Couldock played Grace Emery very neatly.

The afterpiece was His Last Legs, with Mr. Langrishe as O'Callaghan, the broken-down Irish genius. He rendered the character in a really artistic manner. Too many actors seem to think they cannot represent an Irish character without whooping and yelling and kicking around like an exuberant savage; the very opposite of such a man as O'Callaghan, who is a gentleman, though broken down, and who, while anxiously seeking a dinner, knows and respects the amenities of polite society. The farce was very well played.

On the evening of Saturday last, the Willow Copse and the Laughing Hyena were produced. All the encomiums that we have read or heard of Mr. Couldock's Luke Fielding did him no more than justice in the part. It was exquisitely rendered, true to nature in all its variations and touches, and proved that the artist has studied human nature well and deeply. He was excellently supported. Miss Couldock played Rose, and, though her voice lacks a rounded fullness and mellowness which would increase her histrionic powers considerably, she played with a spirit and pathos that won with the audience, and enlisted the house in her favor. Mr. Margetts played Stagers, Mr. Dunbar Augustus and Miss Alexander Meg, excellently. Mr. Martin, who played Dick Hulks, has a looseness of style and appearance, and a jerkiness of throwing out his words, added to a peculiarly discordant laugh which comes in at inappropriate times, all of which tell against his success. If he will cease to affect an ungainly stooping gait, open his mouth when he speaks, and study the nature of the character he has to represent he may make something in his profession. Mr. Graham's Sir Richard might have had more force and feeling than he manifested. Mr. Hardie as Vanguard was very good; so was Mrs. Bowring as Lady Apsley. Mrs. Fitzwilliams had little to do, and did it. Mr. Maiben played Bubblemere, Mr. Kelly Fungus, and Mr. McIntosh Lynx in their usual manner.

In the afterpiece all the characters were good, and Mr. and Mrs. Langrishe showed their powers of comedy admirably. The lady made her first appearance, and obtained a firm footing with the audience.

The applause during the evening was, as newspaper reporters say, loud and prolonged. The Willow Copse should by all means be repeated before the engagement of Mr. Couldock closes, for it is not often that such a really excellent treat is presented to theatre-goers.

THE GRASSHOPPERS.—These destructive pests have appeared in the city and south of it in innumerable quantities, and have already destroyed a great amount of vegetation. Flying apparently without aim but driven with the wind, in a calm they sink down in myriads, and settling on green and inviting lots, make desolation visible in a day or two. We have seen full grown fruit eaten nearly into the core by them in a few hours. They are doing great damage in and around this city.