

## THE EDITOR'S COMMENTS.

### RESPECT FOR SACRED PLACES.

Of all people, the Latter-day Saints should be exemplars of decorous conduct in places dedicated to the service of the Lord. A spirit of contention, of disorder, or of levity, is wholly out of place in a house consecrated to the worship of the Most High. The circumstances in which the Saints have been placed have made it necessary sometimes to use their meeting houses for a variety of purposes, but in all these uses the chief feature connected with the building—its devotion to a sacred object—should be well borne in mind. It should never be forgotten that the house of God is a house of order. If this fact be impressed upon the people, in word or deed, by those who have the chief responsibility in directing affairs relating to halls for religious meetings, the effect of the example on others will be to lead them toward appropriate conduct in the sacred places.

The Saints have been controlled by circumstances in the manner and style of buildings they have constructed for houses of worship. Sometimes they have had to be content with edifices that have been far from richly furnished or elaborately decorated; at other times they have been able to erect costly and handsome structures, and both have been pleasing to the Lord. Elegant fittings and ornamentation minister to the comfort and convenience of those who assemble in a house of worship, but neither these nor bare walls and rough furniture of themselves add to the sacred character of the place. That arises from its purpose and use. As whatever is disorderly is offensive to the Lord, and therefore will not be accepted of and blessed by Him, if a room designed for meetings be untidy in its appearance by the seats being disarranged, or the walls and floor begrimed with dirt, its sanctity, if any be intended for it, is necessarily detracted from. People who assemble therein are not impressed with a respect for it, and since in the condition described it is not a house of order, it hardly can be designated as fitting the requirements as a house of the Lord. But if its appearance be clean and tidy, it bears evidence of the respect in which it is held by those who occupy it, and testifies that they regard cleanliness as an element of sacredness.

We may apply the suggestions regarding the peaceful and harmonious aspect of the room and its furniture to the conduct of the people who assemble there. Those who are permitted to enter a house of worship should exhibit due reverence therein, because of the One to whose service it is set apart. Elements of a disturbing nature are not proper in a house used for the worship of God, even when divine service is not going on. The boisterous mirth, jostling, allowing of children to run noisily about or climb over seats, and other features of like character that occasionally are witnessed before the opening and at the close of meetings, are altogether inappropriate, and whenever a disposition to engage

therein is manifest it should receive a prompt and effective check from those in charge.

It has been often noticed in Sabbath meetings at the Tabernacle that tourists who are visiting here, and among them many who lay claim to good standing as exemplars of Christian conduct, exhibit great lack of respect for a house that is dedicated to the worship of the Most High. By shifting from place to place and gazing about as though they were in a museum, and, when they have satisfied their curiosity, staking out of the place, while divine service is going on, they exhibit a lamentable ignorance or disregard of the common rules of politeness that does not receive the approbation of cultured and refined people anywhere. The Saints especially should decry all such improper conduct by exhibiting true dignity and being models of propriety and decorum.

There is no necessity for people to display in sacred edifices an appearance of unsociability, or to draw long faces that betoken either pretense of sadness or real sorrow. This proceeding would be inappropriate, for while the house of the Lord is a house of order, it is not a place of gloom. It is emphatically the opposite of the latter—it is a house of praise, of prayer, of faith, of rejoicing. The fulness of a heart glad in the worship of the Maker is manifest in a smiling countenance and words of inspiration, comfort and good cheer. But happiness is not hilarity; cheerfulness is not levity; lightheartedness is not lightmindedness. In houses of worship we may be filled with reverence, with brotherly love, with sociability, with joyousness; and the fulness of the enjoyment of these attributes is in the exercise of dignity, gentleness and good order. The house that is dedicated to the worship of the Lord should be to Saints a place of sweet communion with and instruction through the Spirit of the Holy One.

### RENOVATE THE ORCHARDS.

In former years this Territory produced, in great abundance, apples of the finest quality. The size which this fruit attained was large and the flavor was unsurpassed by any produced on the continent. It was confidently believed that the apple orchards of the Territory would become a great source of wealth to the people. But early in the seventies the codling moth made its appearance, and its ravages spread so rapidly and so extensively that a large proportion of our apple orchards ceased to yield a valuable crop, and for a dozen years or more Utah has not produced enough of this fruit to supply the home demand, by a long way, and much that our home orchardists bring to market is hardly fit for use, on account of the codling moth larvæ with which it is infested.

The course that the people who own the orchards have taken in respect to this matter has been in striking contrast with their character and conduct

in the face of difficulties which they have nearly always displayed. Though noted for patient and persevering energy, they have surrendered to their insect foe without a struggle worthy to be called such. Apple orchards that would have furnished pleasant and profitable employment to women and children, as well as men, besides food and revenue to incalculable amounts, have been allowed to lapse into a condition of desolation, with scarcely an effort on the part of their owners to save them. Such orchardists as would have shown a disposition to fight the foe have been deterred by the listlessness of their neighbors, for this was a matter in which all must co-operate or no result could be accomplished.

If all the orchards but one in a town should be cleared of the codling moth, and that one should be allowed to remain a breeding place for the insect, the labor of ridding all the rest would soon be neutralized. Under these circumstances it is hardly to be expected that the co-operation of effort sufficiently complete and effective to accomplish the result desired, can be secured, especially in the larger towns, without the aid of law. It is therefore eminently proper that the police power of the state should be invoked in aid and protection of the important industry of horticulture.

In pursuance of this idea, several bills have been introduced in the present Legislature, looking to the destruction of the codling moth and other forms of insects and plant life injurious to fruit, and the extermination of those diseases that unfavorably affect fruit vines and trees. It may be that cradles exist in some of these bills, and that they would cause unnecessary loss, expense and hardship if enacted into law. Judging by protests that have been presented against one or more of them, by persons interested in the fruit industry, such is probably the case. But this fact should not deter the Legislature from taking decisive action. A bill ought to be prepared and passed, that will compel all owners of orchards to have them thoroughly renovated. We have laws providing for the destruction of animals, bees, etc., infected with contagious diseases, and all intelligent people recognize the necessity for them. Why not deal with orchards on the same principle?

A bill might easily be drawn, in the light of modern science relating to the subject, that would make specific requirements of all persons owning or controlling orchards, as to what should be done in order to rid them of fruit pests and tree diseases. Disregard of the law should be punishable by fine and imprisonment, and, if carried too far, by the summary destruction of the orchard which is allowed to remain a source of pest or disease. The very nature of the subject demands severity, for half-way measures will inevitably result in failure to accomplish any desirable end.

The mining industry, the principal source of revenue to this Territory, has been well nigh destroyed, and, judging by appearances, if the people are to escape poverty they must have recourse to other sources of wealth. The earth is ever ready to reward the intelligent efforts of man, but it is required of