

DESERET NEWS:

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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THE WORK IN THE SOUTHERN STATES.

THE Nashville, (Tennessee) *American* has been publishing some communications concerning Utah, signed "Reporter" who has been taking a trip across the continent. They contain many inaccuracies, perhaps not intentionally made, but such as are usual with persons paying a flying visit to Salt Lake City, and gaining their information from carriage drivers and others who take special delight in "guying" travelers and filling them up with ridiculous stories about the "Mormons." Elder John Morgan wrote a reply correcting the errors into which "Reporter" had fallen, which the *American* was courteous enough to publish. The editor, however, felt it necessary to say something about "Mormonism" on his own account, lest his readers might think him too liberal in printing anything from the pen of a "Mormon." The editorial is a singular mixture of opposite opinions. While desiring the prosecution of forcible measures against the Latter-day Saints, he yet concedes the point that peaceable means will effect more than violence. For instance he says:

"While no man can contemplate the monstrous vice of the Mormon system without wishing for some prompt and vigorous policy of suppression, it is likely that the reformation will come about through advancing light from without and the civilizing influences of new population, growing intelligence and closer communication with the rest of the world."

"While we confess a willingness to see a most stringent policy adopted, Mormon missionary work placed under the ban of severe laws, the unclean thing rooted out of its stronghold and its leaders treated to the bitterest penalties, calm judgment and the lessons of history teach that persecution aids rather than retards the growth of false systems. Our correspondent is right; a firm and steady application of the law, the settlement of the Territory, the education of the people, will do more than any effort to violently uproot the evil by means of force."

A little reflection ought to show those persons who needlessly agitate themselves on the "Mormon" question that, if "calm judgment" endorses the better way of intelligent and pacific measures with heterodoxy, the desire for "a stringent policy" and "the bitterest penalties," proceeds from hasty conclusions and that inflexible bigotry which is truly "a relic of barbarism."

The work in the Southern States is proceeding satisfactorily, notwithstanding the efforts of hireling priests and prejudiced editors. Brother Morgan writes to President Taylor from Nashville under date of November 1st:

"The brethren who left home on the 25th October, arrived in due season, and have all gone to their respective fields of labor feeling well, and will doubtless be enabled to do much good."

Reports from the various conferences throughout the mission are encouraging, and we are having quieter times than for the past six months. Baptisms are steadily taking place in most of the districts canvassed by the Elders, and prospects are fair for the future.

I shall accompany the company of Saints to Colorado, who leave here on the 10th inst., and visit with the Saints a few days prior to my return to the mission. Please to address me up to December 1st at Manassa, Conejos County, Colorado.

We notice that the St. Louis *Republican*, like other anti-"Mormon" papers, does not keep posted on the subject which frequently engages its

attention. In its issue of Nov. 8th it says:

"The Georgia papers are calling for a rigid enforcement of the anti-Mormon law against the polygamy preachers sent from Salt Lake to make converts in the south. They are right, for while the State has nothing to do with religion, it has a great deal to do with crime. The encouragement of polygamy is a crime, and the officials of the law should make vigorous war against it."

The *Republican* and those "Georgia papers" ought to know that the so-called anti-"Mormon" law proved an abortion. It did not even pass one House of the Legislature, being too anti-republican and absurd. They ought also to know that the "encouragement of polygamy" is not a crime in any part of the world. Overt acts only can be taken cognizance of by the law. Every man in this country has the right of free speech on the subject. But a little inquiry would prove to all who are interested in this matter, that the Elders laboring in the Southern States or elsewhere are not engaged in the "encouragement of polygamy," but in the proclamation of the gospel of repentance and obedience to the ordinances established for the remission of sins and the bestowal of the Holy Ghost. Also that the honest-hearted inquirers of the South are fast finding out the falsehoods of the attacks made upon them by preachers and editors, and obtaining that knowledge of the truth which comes from submission to the laws of the Lord. One hundred and twenty of them are on their way to our settlements in Utah and Colorado. The work is onward and will continue.

THE B. Y. ACADEMY.

We are gratified to know that the Brigham Young Academy at Provo as well as the Brigham Young College at Logan, is in a flourishing condition and doing a good work in the community. One of the "features" of the Provo Academy is its theological training. This, with the excellent spirit which prevails in the institution helps to make it a model school. As it is not a district or territorial institution, there being no appropriation for its support from the principles pertaining to religion as well as those branches of study which commonly come under the head of secular education.

The Principal, Professor Karl G. Maeser, takes pride and pleasure in the inculcation of gospel truths connected with the ordinary rudiments of learning. Belief in and reverence of the Deity is promoted in connection with scientific tuition. And thus the youthful mind is prepared to view science in the light of religion instead of something separate from, or antagonistic to it. Independent thought is encouraged, but it has the advantage of that regulation and those safeguards which true religion affords, against the wandering into the by-paths of doubt and infidelity which so frequently tempt the feet of those who are newly awakened to behold the fields of reflection, and who so often exhibit the truth of the adage, "a little knowledge is a dangerous thing."

The assistants and teachers in the Academy cordially enter into the spirit and plan of the Principal, and the pupils gain immense benefit in addition to the usual course of instruction in institutions of learning. The fruits of this have been abundantly manifest in the lives of the young people who have studied at the B. Y. Academy, and we would be glad to see many more establishments of this character in the Territory.

These remarks are not intended to disparage other educational institutions, which are not in a position to exercise the same liberties as are open to the Academy. But we recognize the necessity for Latter-day Saint schools among the Latter-day Saints, and therefore rejoice in the prosperity and progress of such institutions as that inaugurated at Provo by the late, respected President Brigham Young.

GERMAN CARP FOR UTAH.

Prof. Spencer F. Baird, U. S. Fish Commissioner, states that German carp are now ready for distribution. Two methods are prepared: "First to send a supply of fish, under the care of a special messenger to some

central point, transmission from which to ultimate destination must be provided for by each applicant; and second, to make shipment by express direct to each applicant. In the first case the commission meets the expense of transmission to the central point in question; and in the second the consignee pays the express charges through." The commissioner then shows that the first method can not be carried out, as skillful messengers are very few, and the methods of wholesale transportation can only be established in succession, etc., and that "it is impossible to fix at present a definite date, or station of delivery of the fish" ordered for Utah Territory by the first method.

Under these circumstances Commissioner Baird recommends the second method, and states that the express companies have agreed to carry the cans at reduced rates from Washington.

The cans hold about ten gallons, are of tin, enclosed in wood, and may be had of the express company on payment of two dollars. The freight of one can from Washington, D. C., to Salt Lake City will be \$8.25. These payments have to be made to the express companies on delivery. The United States Commissioner does not guarantee certain delivery of living fish, but there is every probability that with reasonable care of the express companies, the percentage of loss will be trifling. No charge is made by the commission for the fish themselves. Each can will contain from 12 to 30 carp, according to size.

As it is impossible to tell when the delivery of carp for Utah may be made next spring, applicants for supplies may, if they prefer it, have a can sent upon forwarding \$10.25 to pay for can and express charges to the undersigned; persons residing at Ogden and neighborhood will have an order forwarded to them if arrangements can be made, so as to receive their carp at that place. Persons may remit cash payment for cans and express charges, with name and postal address of applicant to which the cans will be forwarded at their expense.

JOSEPH L. BARFOOT,
Fish Commissioner,
P.O. Box 332 Salt Lake City, U.T.

TWO GRAND ATTEMPTS.

The time has come around for another of those anti-"Mormon" epidemics which periodically afflict the press of the United States. Just now the papers are considerably agitated on the "Mormon" question, and as usual, in attacking it, they shoot very wide of the mark. Two great mistakes are being made in this season's assault, which we will briefly point out for the benefit of our contemporaries, not because we anticipate any serious consequences therefrom.

It is supposed that the "Mormon Delegate," as they call Mr. Cannon, has been judicially declared an alien, and therefore, that he cannot take his seat in Congress. This is one of the great mistakes. It is not remarkable that so many journals have fallen into it, when their general habit of repeating rumors about the "Mormons" without inquiry is considered. The press dispatch announcing the termination of the Campbell-Cannon suit in the Third District Court of this Territory, was worded so as to lead them to this conclusion. They did not stop to think of the many falsehoods concerning Utah which have been sent over the wires to deceive the public, but proceeded at once to comment on it as a fact.

We wish to inform them that no judicial inquiry into Mr. Cannon's citizenship has been had. A suit was entered, asking the Court, among other things, to declare void his certificate of naturalization obtained December 7th, 1854, but the case has not been tried on its merits, simply because the Court had no jurisdiction of it in the shape in which it was presented. No answer was filed to the complaint because the defendant's counsel interposed a demurrer pleading the Court's lack of jurisdiction, and the demurrer was sustained. The suit was therefore dismissed. This was defeat to the Campbell side, but is represented as a triumph against Mr. Cannon. Anyone acquainted with the simplest principles of law, or the common proceedings in a civil suit, must know that when a case is dismissed on a demurrer it is not a decision on the merits of the cause. Why then so much firing of guns and ringing of bells, as though a

victory had been achieved against the "Mormons?"

The answer is, to create an influence against their Delegate in the contest for the seat in Congress. This was the object of the falsehood sent over the wires by the author of the press dispatch from Salt Lake. It is one little part of the whole iniquitous conspiracy to rob the Territory of the its lawful representation in the national Legislature. Foiled at every step in the shameful business, the scoundrels who laid the plot are reduced to narrow straits and are making a last big effort. But this impudent attempt to cloth their signal defeat in the trappings of victory will only aid in their final overthrow. The position of our Delegate is legally impregnable, and if only common justice regulates the contest, his unscrupulous enemies will not have the shadow of a chance of success.

Whoever says that Mr. Cannon is not a citizen of the United States makes a grand mistake or utters a falsehood. Whoever says that he has in person or by attorney, in fact or in law, admitted that he was not properly naturalized, either ignorantly blunders or wilfully lies. All the facts and proceedings are against such an assumption, and those papers which lead themselves to the circulation of the untruth are only injuring their reputation for reliability.

The other mistake is that the Utah election laws permit women who are minors to vote. This falsehood has been told so frequently that it is believed by many persons, and is alluded to as though it were well established, by many newspapers. The *Springfield Republican* speaks of it as "one of the iniquities of the 'Mormon' system, which the whole country is interested in wiping out." Now, the truth is that no woman can vote at an election in Utah who does not make oath that she is twenty-one years of age and possesses other qualifications essential to a voter. Any one can satisfy himself on this point by reference to the registration law in force in this Territory. The statement made that young girls or women under twenty-one years of age can, by marriage, become voters, whether made up by unscrupulous attorneys conspiring against Mr. Cannon, or repeated by a silly Executive joining in the plot, or quoted by newspapers without reference to the law, is so utterly untrue that it is astounding in face of the statutes providing to the contrary.

Why is it that reputable journals will aid in the promulgation of such groundless fabrications? All the excitement which is raised in the country at intervals over the "Mormon" question proceeds from misapprehensions similar to those we have here pointed out. Who is likely to profit by such extreme measures as are called for on the untenable grounds here exposed? No one but a handful of intriguers, lusting for a chance to grasp this Territory and manipulate its exchequer.

We ask our contemporaries throughout the land to view this present issue consistently. The so-called "Mormon problem" has nothing to do with the matter of our Delegate's election. The question to be decided is, shall the voice of the people, uttered at the ballot box, be silenced by the clamors of a few conspirators? Shall the votes of over 18,000 citizens be thrown aside in favor of 1,800, simply because the majority have an unpopular religion? Shall a large number of men who have, in common with our Delegate, exercised the privileges of citizenship by virtue of credentials received in due form from a proper court, be deprived of their rights because the Court that naturalized them kept its records in a manner which a few schemers technically object to? Shall the fundamental principles of republican government be trampled in the mire, in a mad attempt to correct something objectionable which has no part in the controversy?

We remind those who are interested in these affairs that the faith of the Latter-day Saints, the truth or falsity of their views, the polygamy question or any other peculiar feature of "Mormon" doctrine or polity, cuts no figure whatever in this issue before the country. The attempts to force them into it proceed from a consciousness that the main cause is nothing but a bag of wind. Of itself it can do nothing, for the smallest point of sound reason will puncture it and shrivel it up. Therefore side issues which have caught the popular mind have

been seized upon, joined to it and made prominent, that the iniquity of the main thing may be kept out of sight.

Whatever views the press of the United States may have of the system called "Mormonism," they certainly should not confound them with a simple question of the political rights of an undoubted majority of American citizens.

LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, NOV. 18.

Sentence Deferred.—Jack Emerson, convicted of the murder of John F. Turner, was to be sentenced to-day. Owing to the Court being occupied with other business, the passing of sentence was deferred for one week.

Dismissed.—Several liquor cases, prosecuted by the County, were dismissed by Justice Pyper, to-day, the defense having raised the point that proceedings should have been begun in the precincts where the parties reside, which had not been done. Dismissal was the only recourse. New proceedings will have to be instituted.

The Oldest Member.—Almira Covey, of the 12th Ward, Salt Lake City, sends the following, under date of to-day:

Having noticed in the News, an inquiry as to who is the oldest member of the Church now living, I wish to state that I was baptized in Cayuga Lake, New York State, in the latter part of August, 1830, by David Whitmer, and confirmed by Joseph Smith the Prophet shortly after.

From the Southern States.—This morning we received a visit from Elders George T. Bean, of Richfield, Sevier County, and Anthony Paxton, of Kanosh, Millard County. They reached home last night, from missions to the Southern States, having accompanied the party of Saints that arrived at Ogden yesterday, in charge of Elder George R. Hill.

Elder Bean left his home for the south on June 14th, 1880. He was appointed by President Morgan to labor in Georgia, where he remained between three and four months, and got along very well. He was then removed to Alabama. While in Chilton, Coosa and Antauga Counties he progressed satisfactorily, especially in Coosa, where a very promising field was opened up. In January last, however, he removed to St. Clair County, where he and the Elders associated with him had a hot time, being mobbed three times in one week, and their lives threatened. The brethren withdrew from that part of the country and Elder Bean returned to Georgia, where the work was making fair progress, and spirit of mobocracy and persecution subsiding.

Elder Paxton left Utah in October, 1880, and labored in Smith and Bland Counties, Virginia. There is no active persecution in that part, many believe in the gospel, but are exceedingly slow to embrace it. Fifteen had been baptized in the Virginia Conference this year.

Weather Report.—The following was received by Deseret Telegraph, at 2:30 to-day:

Paris, Idaho—Very cold; looks like snowing.

Frisco—Snowing; now three inches deep; very cold.

Cedar City—Cold; one inch of snow.

Beaver—Clear and cold; snow six inches deep.

Provo—One inch of snow; clear but clouding up.

Payson—Three inches; now very cold and cloudy.

Nephi—Two inches snow; hard frost last night; cloudy and cold this morning.

Bingham—Snowing; is a foot deep; drifting; high wind, not very cold.

Alta—The worst storm of the season, five feet of snow, snowing and blowing.

Juab—Cold and cloudy.

Franklin—Two inches of snow, cloudy and threatening.

Salina—Three inches snow; clear but cold.

Glenwood—Two inches of snow; sun shining to-day.

Fairview—One inch of snow; is cloudy.

Fountain Green—Clear and cold; snowed some yesterday.

Ephraim—Two inches snow; clear and cold.

Logan—Very cloudy; has been snowing.