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PROSPECTIVE INDIAN TROUBLES.

The belligerent spirit now manifesting itself so extensively in many portions of the earth, seems, according to the reports coming to hand from time to time, to be if possible more widely diffused than usual among the aborigines, who are nearly all the time in a chronic condition of savage war. Their internal discords are, for the time being, said to be laid measurably aside, and they are declaredly about to wage a war against the whites over a very extensive region of country. From the preparations being made by Government for a summer campaign against the Indians, it is likely that they will be heavily chastised, or the tribes be thoroughly roused so as to make it a wide-spread and prolonged conflict.

Travel for some years past across the plains has been very far from being secure; it may be that the present and prospective movement of troops may render the transit of freight and travelers less dangerous than it has been. Meanwhile the Indians of this and neighboring Territories are neither as amicable, nor as friendly disposed, as the lovers of peace and quiet would like. The clamor in surrounding States and Territories is to "wipe them out." And in carrying out this policy there is little doubt but acts of violence are committed on some of the savages who are not actually guilty of the murderous crimes which many of them commit. Justice to the red man, as well as to the white, would seem to demand that the guilty should be punished with a severity proportionate to their crimes; that tribes should be required, if they make professions of friendship, to aid in bringing to justice those of their number who are guilty of assisting in raids upon white settlements; and that the innocent should not be made responsible nor suffer for the deeds of the guilty.

But too often the policy pursued towards the Indians is the same barbarous one that they believe in and practice themselves, traditionated as they are with the belief, that every one of a tribe or race from any of whom they may have received an injury is equally an object of vengeance. Of course the people of each State or Territory, where Indians are troublesome, will adopt the course that they deem best in such contingencies. Some will go in for extermination. Others will pursue a milder course. We have always believed that it is "cheaper and better to feed them than to fight them." But there are those among them who at times would rather steal than be fed; and who endeavor in their raids to destroy life when they can, as well as run off cattle.

Considering that we have had at various times, since the settlement of this Territory, troubles of this kind to contend with, and that there is more or less of a marauding spirit and a thirst for blood manifested by some of the savages in the mountains around us, wisdom would dictate that care should be exercised throughout the settle-

ments to guard against sudden attacks from this source. However barbarous and ignorant the savages may be, there is no one who knows them but will admit that they are keen-eyed and cunning, and they rarely if ever attack where there is a moderate prospect of their not succeeding. The great reason why our immigrant trains have had a comparative immunity from attack in crossing the plains, has been because efficient guards have been constantly kept up. And but few if any have ever suffered seriously from the savages in this Territory who have exercised the requisite care, have acted according to the counsel that has been often given on this subject by our leaders, and have not invited attack by exposing themselves and their property unwisely to Indians.

We trust that there is but little danger to be apprehended from the aborigines in Utah, although there have been recently some symptoms of a repetition of last summer's raids by the same bands that committed depredations then; but vigilance in guarding against such attacks and taking care of stock, and caution in not going in small numbers or by single individuals into places where they are likely to be, whether north or south, will not result in harm, and is wise policy at all times in an Indian country.

WHO ARE THE INDEPENDENT?

It is a very common thing for some people when referring to the Latter-day Saints, to dwell on what they call our lack of independence. They talk of a condition of serfdom existing here which they pretend to lament, and, with various maudlin attempts at philanthropy, express their desires to see us freed from a supposed condition of bondage, which we certainly have never felt, nor dreamed of its existing here. If by independence they mean, to trample upon the rights of others, do wrong, act like fools or madmen simply that everybody may know we can do as we please, whether we please to do right or wrong, and violate every principle of righteousness and wisdom merely to show that we are not and cannot be controlled, then we admit we have no desire to be independent in such a fashion. But if by independence is meant the right to act as becomes a man, exercising every inalienable right bestowed upon us by our Creator, and extending to all others the same rights, fearing to do evil because it is an infringement upon the bounds prescribed by the Almighty beyond which man cannot pass and be justified, then we are the freest of free men on the earth, and the most independent.

The liberty that some would claim is unbridled license, the privilege to insult, outrage and tread under foot every man and every thing that stood in the way of their ungoverned passions, desires or appetites. They would blaspheme God to prove that no being or power can dictate or control them; they would show their independence of the laws which govern health, happiness and good order by the grossest intemperance; they would enter into the domestic circle and defile its sanctity, that they might gratify a vile, libidinous spirit, and prove that they are free men with the power to act ever so wickedly; they would waste, destroy and squander, that all men might know they were independent of the wisdom which teaches to save, preserve and gather together everything that is of worth. They are not independent, nor free men. They are the slaves of the vilest and the worst of passions. They are not brave either, for they lack the moral courage to do

right when they know they are doing wrong. They play the braggadocio, and bluster about their freedom, while they are afraid to even express themselves in favor of that which is right, when it is opposed to the custom or fashion of a generation rapidly degenerating and sinking in degradation.

We have cultivated these valleys, and have wrung prosperity from an ungenial soil by agricultural and kindred labors. The fashion has been and is in this western country to hunt through the mountains and gorges for the precious metals, as if nothing else were worth the seeking after. And because we have listened to the voice of reason, and have avoided pursuits that have ever failed to bring permanent prosperity to any community, we are said to be ignorant in bondage, controlled by one will in a manner that fetters enterprise and chains down ability and energy. Yet in no part of this great nation has there been manifested more energy, enterprise and ability in developing territorial resources, than in this Territory of Utah. This is conceded by all, even by those who with customary inconsistency talk loudest and silliest of our bondage and lack of enterprise. We follow agricultural pursuits in preference to hunting for gold and silver, because it pays better; and we recognize the wisdom of those who recommend such a line of policy.

We prefer being united to being torn by discussions and conflicting parties. In this we show a liberality of thought and feeling as opposite to that evinced by those who boast of their independence, as it is superior to their contracted notions; for we do not seek to force our individual views upon others, nor abuse them for honestly differing from us; and believe that all men have an equal right to exercise their intelligence and thought, responsible to the Almighty for the use they make of the powers of mind with which they are endowed.

We have, also, that true independence of mind that enables us to receive the truth, love it and practice it, though all the rest of mankind should be opposed to it and to us for so doing. If they who talk so much about our mental bondage and enslaved condition, would free their minds from the trammels of prejudice and emerge from the servitude of passion, and would learn our true condition before pronouncing judgment upon it, they would pour out less philanthropic gushings upon us and more on themselves; and would learn that they only are free who are free in the truth.

HOME ITEMS.

SABBATH MEETINGS—Elder George Q. Cannon pointed out the superiority of the wisdom with which the Lord inspires those who serve Him, over that of the world. As an illustration he referred to the time when the Saints came from Illinois to the Territory now called Utah. They were led by men inspired from God, who depended on Him for guidance and instruction, and the Pioneers, though poorly prepared for such an undertaking, reached this valley without having lost a man; while a short time previously, a company who had started to travel to California, well fitted out for the journey and provided with all the requisites for making it in safety and with comfort, lost most of their number, nearly all of the company having perished miserably, before they could pass through the mountain region east of the Pacific. This being guided by inspiration is obnoxious to the world. They object to the government of God, call it one-man power, and say it is contrary to the spirit of independence. Yet we have proved, in the most indubitable manner, its blessings and beneficial results. While the nations of the earth are torn by dissensions, and this nation is split into factions and parties, we are united, at peace with each other and with all who will allow us to remain in peace, and daily realizing the blessings which God bestows upon us. There is more real independence among this people than can be found anywhere else, for they show that true indepen-

dence of character and moral courage by which they rise above old traditions and time worn prejudices; and they embrace and practice doctrines and principles of truth, though all the world should be opposed to them. Their obedience to the commands of God, in receiving and practicing plural marriage, of itself proves this; and their persistent determination to resist evil of every kind, no matter how popular or fashionable it may be, or how sacred tradition may have rendered it, shows how deeply they are imbued with a spirit of intelligent independence of thought and feeling. He exhorted the congregation to cultivate the spirit of obedience, which will make union stronger, and enable us to fulfill our destiny,—to become the head of the nations, and make known the laws of Heaven to all mankind.

AFTERNOON.

Elder John Taylor contrasted the religious, social and political condition of the Saints with that of the world. Religiously, in the world, mankind commit their eternal interests to the care of men who are often chosen by parents to be guides in the way of salvation because they lack brains to enable them to succeed in the world in any other way. Socially, they brand us with the commission of wrongs, which are with us no wrongs because our acts are open, honorable, legitimate and in consonance with the Divine law which is the basis of all law, yet they commit the same acts, illegitimate by their own construction, and do it in a manner that is a disgrace to manhood and the name of man. Politically, we have organizations which our numbers and situation have necessarily given us; and the power of God is continually made manifest in our behalf. The speaker inculcated an increase in everything good, noble and holy. He reprobated in severe language the use of profane language, and the acquiring of degrading habits. Parents should set before their children an example that they can pattern after with profit; they should be like Abraham, of whom the Lord said that He knew he would serve Him, and command his children after him in righteousness. He referred to the confidence that we have in the word of God, the influence that it has upon our course, and the difference it makes between us and other professing Christians, who reject the Scriptures, except in theory. The result of that confidence is an increase of union in faith and feeling among the Saints, such as the Savior prayed for to be among his disciples, but which cannot be found among the various Christian denominations.

THE WEATHER.—Friday morning:—

Great Salt Lake City, windy, cold and clear;

By Deseret State Telegraph Line:—

Logan, clear and mild, sun shining brightly.

Brigham City, clear, windy and cold.

Ogden, very cold and windy; snow nearly gone; sun shining brightly.

Sanpete, clear and frosty; thermometer at 25 degrees.

Nephi, a little cloudy, though mild and pleasant overhead, very muddy, snow in places.

Fillmore, heavy fog last night, clear and warm to-day; some snow.

Cove Creek, few clouds, about six inches of snow, rather cool.

Parowan, cloudy, but rather pleasant.

Tokerville, a little cloudy, with a rather cold north wind.

St. George, clear and warm, mud drying very fast.

On Monday afternoon:—

Great Salt Lake City, cloudy and mild, south wind blowing.

By Deseret State Telegraph Line:—

Logan, cloudy and mild, it rained a little this morning.

Brigham City, very mild, snow all gone, south wind drying up the streets fast.

Sanpete, cloudy, thermometer at 52°.

Nephi, pleasant, but few clouds, gentle breeze from the south.

Fillmore, clear and pleasant, ground drying up rapidly.

Cove Creek, clear and pleasant, snow thawing very fast.

Beaver, clear and quite warm, roads drying very fast.

Parowan, very warm and pleasant.

St. George, warm and pleasant, but cloudy.

DOGS.—The City Ordinance concerning dogs came into operation yesterday. We hope its results will be as beneficial as they are desirable, in decreasing the canine nuisance, which has assumed largely increased dimensions of late.

HOME MAIL.—The Manti News packages occasionally fail of reaching their destination, a fact very annoying and injurious to both publisher and subscriber. Will Postmasters, passengers and others on the route give the subject their attention, and so inform us that the evil may be stopped?

U. S. DISTRICT COURT.—This Court commenced its sitting on Monday morning, April 1st, at 10 o'clock, in the Court House, his Honor, Chief Justice Titus, presiding. The first sitting was principally devoted to impaneling a Jury and hearing the charge from the Judge.

SEE list of Estrays.