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LIBERTY AND LICENSE.

At a crowded meeting in Boston, recently, held in that historic building, Faneuil Hall, the following was enunciated as a principle and accepted with loud applause:

"That the right to think and to publicly express, by tongue or pen, the results of thinking, is the dearest right which man can possess; and to deny its exercise is subversive of natural justice, contrary to constitutional provision, dangerous to public welfare and corrupting to public morals."

A little reflection will show that the idea implied in this statement is entitled to all the deadweight of the latter part of the sentence. That is, that people may say and publish whatever they think, without being called to account for their utterances. In other words, there should be no law of libel. That public speakers and writers for the press should fulminate and print anything they please, no matter how much it may tend to injure others, without being legally liable for the slander. If this is not implied, what is the "principle presented to and applauded by the Boston audience. There is no law against thinking, and if there was it would be a dead letter, for thought is beyond the control of priest, legislator, judge or executioner. And the freedom of speech and of the press is guaranteed in this great republic by its general constitution and protected by the laws of the various States and Territories. But liberty and license are widely different, and therefore while the former is upheld the latter is kept in check by the law, for license is not only opposed to true liberty, but is actually destructive thereof.

Every person has a right to think and the right to speak or print his thoughts, untrammeled. But if in the publication thereof he utters untruths, calculated to injure another, whether a private individual or a public functionary, he is liable to punishment on conviction of the offence, which is a crime against society and an infraction of statutory law.

But the Boston declaimers evidently desire the abolition of all laws against libel. And they are not alone in their unreasonable opinions and dangerous demands. Many demagogic public speakers and not a few disreputable press writers appear to be of the same mind. The most outrageous accusations against men in official position are indulged in, often without any foundation in fact or any excuse for their vindictive vulgarity. The ground taken by the slanders seems to be that all public officers are put in a pillory as soon as elected, and that every citizen has the right to pelt them with garbage without stint or hindrance.

There are papers which "make a specialty of scandal and spite," and when the objects of their calumny do not choose to reply to the charges hurled at their character, that silence is construed into tacit admission of guilt. And such a course, when commenced, does not usually end with the misrepresentation and defamation of public men. But soon private character is attacked, and even the weaker sex is assailed, and the professional slanderer, who should be esteemed viler than the mangy dog, darts his venom into the family circle, and drags before the public eye distorted, defiled and falsely-colored pictures of things that belong only to private life.

It is a mark of the progress of a country or a community that such slander is allowed to go unpunished and unrebuted! And would it be for the benefit of the people of the United States if the license which the Boston demagogues and their supporters call "liberty of speech" were to become lawful and undictable? We think not. But perhaps some good might eventually result, although the immediate effects would be harmful, if the libel laws were entirely abolished. Men would resent attacks upon their public and private character by physical force, but the stamping out of a number of press savagery and foot-mouthing orators would be of great benefit to society at large. As it is now, libel laws are almost in disuse. The difficulties in the way of those that are wronged are enough to disabuse most persons from grappling with them. And the reparation possible is generally inadequate, altogether to the injury received. If criminal prosecution is attempted, judges and juries are so impressed with the cry of "freedom of the press," that the voice of justice is hushed, and the slander-monger is encouraged to continue his diabolism with renewed bitterness and strengthened gall.

The public are to blame for this condition of things. Public speakers who indulge in groundless vilification, and papers which deal in scandal should be treated with the contempt they deserve. If the public appetite demands such vile diet, and cannot be appeased without what are called "spicy items," the "spice" will certainly be forthcoming. But the scandal-monger should be despised and excluded from respectable society and be refused recognition by every respectable person of both sexes. And the fact that statements reflecting on the personal character of any individual are found in papers of the "spicy" order should be enough to stamp them as untrue, and unworthy of mention in any decent society. While the appearance in a house of such sheets as make scandal a specialty, should be a sufficient indication of the prurient tastes of the inmates, and a plain sign that it is not a fit place for pure-minded persons to visit.

Inasmuch of more license of speech and of the press, the rights of control need to be tightened, and patriotic sentiment and local law should be arrayed against the present laxity. We would deprecate as much as any one the slightest tampering with that liberty which is designed by the Constitution. But we would hail with pleasure the enforcement of wholesome laws, civil and criminal, which would aid in the correction of the mischievous and despotic practice of untried abuse of public officials, and the inexcusable slander of private individuals, which disgrace both the rostrum and the press, and are growing into a nuisance to society and a positive disgrace to the country.

For the Deseret News,

ARE WE OF ISRAEL?

BY ELIAS G. REYNOLDS.

CHAPTER V.

The origin of the Anglo-Saxons—Derivation of the Word Saxon—The Goths and Vandals—Overthrow of the Roman Empire—The Mythology of the ancient Scandinavians—Baldur—Their Early Literature—Polygamy.

As the question "What became of the ten tribes?" still remains to the world an unanswered historical enigma, so also is the question unanswered whence originated the vast hosts of so-called barbarians who, descending from the frigid regions of Scandinavia, filled Europe with new races, new laws, new ideas, new languages and new institutions. Some have traced the connection between the loss of the ten tribes and the advent of the other, and one author of repute—Mr. Sharon Turner—extensively quoted in this connection, claims that the original home of the Anglo-Saxons was in the very country where Israel is historically lost, and further states that these tribes, in their wanderings, came about the same time as the tribes of Jacob must have taken their journey northward.

Mr. Turner, in his valuable history of the Anglo-Saxons, whilst discussing the Teutonic descent of many of the nations of modern Europe, says:

"It is particularly interesting to us, because, from its barbarous, not only our own immediate ancestors, but also those of the most celebrated nations of modern Europe, the question is undecided. The Anglo-Saxons, Lowland Scotch, Normans, Danes, Norwegians, Swedes, Germans, Dutch, Belgians, Lombards and Franks have all sprung from the same fountain of the human race, which we have distinguished by the terms, Scythian, German or Gothic. The first appearance of the Scythian tribe in Europe may be traced, according to Sir Croker and Home, about the eighth, or according to Herodotus, in the seventh century, before the Christian era. The first scenes of their civil existence, and of their progressive power were in Asia to the east of the Araxes. Here they dwelt, increased and extended their territorial limits for some centuries, unknown to Europe." With regard to the Saxons, Mr. Turner writes, "they were a German or Scythian tribe; and of the various Scythian nations which have been recorded, the Sakal or Saces are the people from whom the descendants of the Saxons may be inferred, with the least violation of probability. They were so called, that the Persians called all the Scythians by the name of Sace." * * * That some of the divisions of this people were really called Saksains (from which we get our Saxon or Saxon) is obvious from Pliny for he says, that the Sakal who settled in Armenia, were called Saccas, which is but Saksains, spelt by a person who was unacquainted with the meaning of the combined words; and the name Saccas, which they gave to that part of Armenia they occupied, is nearly the same word as Saxon. It is also important to remember, that Ptolemy mentions a Scythian tribe sprung from the Sakal, who resided near the Baltic Sea, by the name of Sazone."

* * * Turner, if we mistake not, was not advocating the Israelitish ancestry of the Saxons, hence those who believe in that theory put the greatest stress on his two quotations. He quotes the forefathers of this race dwelt in the exact spot to which Israel was carried captive, and that they began to spread out there from some six or seven hundred years before Christ answering to the very period that the children of Jacob dwelt captive in the country of Canaan. He has assumed a very unique derivation for the word Saxon. He says: "We suppose it is derived from Isaac, by which we find from Amos, this house of Israel had begun to denote itself, just before the captivity. It was used to contract the composition of the name, especially where the compound was with another word, or where it came to be familiarly applied. Saxon is literally or fully expressed, the son of Isaac." Just as Dickson in modern English was abbreviated to Dixon. Such abbreviations, we may remark, in passing, in familiar talk are also common with our neighbors, the Quakers, who also represent the son of Jacob. One writer on this portion of the subject sees in this explanation of the word Saxon a fulfillment of the promise made to our father Abraham, "In Isaac shall thy seed be called," and goes on to prove the argument that Isaac is another name for the same of this same idea, or that a Don Cossack is literally and truly a son of Isaac, of the tribe of Dan.

To be continued.

of ancient Rome and Greece say that it bears no likeness to them; its peculiarities would rather lead to the idea that it was of the origin of British (Anglo-Saxons). Some of the early Christian fathers have fancied a great resemblance between one of their deities, named Baldur or Balder, and our Savior. This god is represented as the son of Odin and Frigg, youthful, beautiful and benignant, the dispenser of kindness, the bringer of joy, bleaching, who loves to dwell with men and whom all love. But he is said to be "the deathless." (The manner of his death is surrounded with mythological nonsense.) All men mourn the loss of their friend and search through the world for some remedy to bring him to life; but in vain; stern death has led him away to the realm of the dead, and can never come back. His wife Nana that she may not be separated from him, has gone to dwell with him there. At last Frigg, his mother, sends a messenger to obtain his release. He leaps the gate of the gloomy world, sees Baldur, and speaks with him, but Baldur cannot be released. There he must remain, and his wife Nana must dwell with him for ever.

From some of the details not here inserted we incline somewhat to the opinion that this above narration is a confused tradition of the way death was brought into the world through the transgression of Adam and Eve rather than that it bears relation to the legend of Baldur. We draw attention to the way Baldur's death was brought about. The tradition runs (American Cyclopaedia) Baldur, having been troubled by dreams and evil omens, indicating danger to life, his mother traveled through the whole universe, eliciting from every created thing a promise not to injure the god. But the serpent, the apelike baboon's mistletoe, the most detested among the gods, an enemy of man, noticed this omission and cut from the mistletoe a piece for the point of a dart. The other gods, surrounding Baldur, made proof of his invulnerability in his sport, by casting at him their weapons, with stones, etc., notwithstanding injurious blows. Baldur and Hodur to throw the dart, he had made from the faygo mistletoe. Baldur was pierced by it and killed. In this tradition Hodur takes the place of Satan. Hodur typifies the serpent and the mistake that of the tree of knowledge of good and evil. It is also noticeable that the serpent is mentioned in the legend of the fall of man, and that man could not overcome the power of death.

The very earliest literature of the Scandinavian peoples, preserved on the Island of Iceland, adds many testimonies to the Scandinavian-Israelitish origin. On this point the Encyclopedia Britannica says: "On either side of the mountains, the Scandinavians are immediately struck with the corroborative evidence which they furnish of the eastern origin of the Goths, the fathers of the Scandinavians. As all languages, which converge in one common centre, Central Asia, and little difference exists between them, so do we find the ancient religious books of Scandinavia, that are carried back thither. Our northern people are a people of eastern origin, Odin and his Asar, Asatru, declared themselves to be from the great Svithiod, a country which appears to have been the home of the Scythians. 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