

and not attract the attention of intelligent people.

At the present rate it is only a question of a few years when the Mormons will almost depopulate several sections of this State."

These statements, alleged to have come from a professed follower of the meek Jesus, could scarcely be more absurd or inconsistent. This man who pretends to preach and practice the Gospel of peace, confesses that he has done all he could to arouse the people to action against men belonging to another body of religionists. That means that he has incited the people to commit violent acts of persecution. Even if the Elders were not engaged in preaching the truth—we claim they are—his position would be without the least justification, on the ground that the persecutor is always in the wrong.

That the Elders are in the habit of drawing rosy pictures of material prosperity and comfortable homes in the west as a leading inducement to gain converts is incorrect, notwithstanding that there would be a measure of truth in the representation if they did. It will not be contended that the facilities in that direction are not much greater in the wide West than exists among the farmers of the South, taking the gloomy description given by Mr. O'Dell as a basis of the argument. The Elders preach the glad tidings of the fulness of the Gospel of faith, repentance, baptism by immersion for the remission of sins and the imparting of the Holy Ghost; the people become converted to these doctrines receive the spirit of gathering with the Church, and exhibit tenacity for the religion. The correspondent of the *Herald* himself states that he found among the converts he visited a wonderful devotion to the principles preached by the Elders. Here is what he said of one, as a sample:

"While poorer than some of his neighbors he was above the average in intelligence, being able to read a little. He was an enthusiastic believer in the doctrines of the Latter-day Saints, and from a large pasteboard box filled with old circus posters and patent medicine almanacs he drew forth a packet of Mormon literature which he insisted would fully explain his reasons for the faith that was in him."

Then it is love for the religious principles involved and not the prospect of future luxurious homes that causes conversion which accounts for the success of the Elders and the comparative impotency of the efforts of sectarian preachers.

The old chestnut about "Mormon" Elders examining all letters is too absurd for anything, and unworthy the consideration of any person of ordinary intelligence. Such a state of surveillance is utterly impracticable, even if there were any necessity for or disposition to operate it. But some reason must be adduced for the non-appearance of tales of the "horror" of a life among the "Mormons," and this transparent one is considered better than none, although it is not, as its absurdity destroys the intent of its perpetrator. If such horrible tales were to be written they would require to be penned by the hand of an artist to excel the uninviting picture credited to Rev. William O'Dell as being descriptive of the life of a certain class in the South. If the correspondent of the New York paper had aimed at consistency he would have observed that, admitting the correctness of the statement made by him that one of the brethren visited "was above the average in intelligence, being able to read a little," it furnished the reason why the horrible letters desired were not written. Why should letters be expected from people who are said to be unable to write, one who is able to "read a little" being "above the average." Of course we do not believe that illiteracy exists to the extent that this person claims, but that makes his position no more logical.

The assertion that the Elders are afraid to come in contact with newspaper men and intelligent persons does not accord with their anxiety to get their message before the people as widely as practicable. Neither does it harmonize with the statement made repeatedly that in many instances the converts to "Mormonism" have been from among the most respected and intelligent people in various sections of the South. Such anti-"Mormon" portrayals as the one referred to, and to which the New York *Herald* opened its columns, are no credit either to those who manufacture them nor those who give them wide publicity. They are self-conflicting, because they are so manipulated as to cater to popular prejudice, the ends of truth and justice not being taken into consideration in connection with them.

Behold, this is my doctrine: whoever repenteth and cometh unto me, the same is my church.—*Doc. and Cov.*

FALSEHOOD'S WORK.

WHEN the falsity of the dispatch sent by the Associated Press agent of this city in regard to the protest against the reappointment of Judge Zane was exposed, the author of the untruthful message endeavored to make out that no error was intended. But the object of the misleading telegram was partly attained. Newspapers receiving it were led to believe that the signers of the protest were "Mormons," while the truth was that they were every one non-"Mormons." A "Mormon" appeal against Zane's appointment would be of course construed in his favor, as the public had been led to believe that the "Mormons" would oppose any one who endeavored to enforce the laws.

The dispatcher understood this, and therefore framed the dispatch for the purpose of conveying to the press the impression which has obtained. It was also intended to have an effect at Washington damaging to the protest. That part of the project has failed. The influential persons thus sought to be influenced obtained better information. They know how to value an application supported by falsehood and fraud.

A number of eastern papers received here have editorial articles commenting on the "caucus of Mormon lawyers and their conferees," and repetitions of the additional falsehood that "under Judge Sandford the leaders of the Mormon Church convicted of polygamy have received nominal sentences and quittance for the past."

Those papers ought to know that none of the "Mormon" leaders have been convicted of polygamy; that they have not even been indicted for that offense; and that in cases of unlawful cohabitation the penalties inflicted by Judge Sandford have been ample to vindicate the law, and much more effective than the merciless policy of his predecessor, if the object in view is to bring about respect for and compliance with the laws of Congress.

Some of those papers speak of the knowledge of these "Mormons" who were supposed to have held "the caucus," that Judge Zane would "carry out the law rigidly and impartially." No such caucus was held as represented, but the "Mormons," whether in or out of caucus, know exactly to the contrary. They will concede the rigidity when