

DESERET NEWS: WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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ELECTRIC LIGHTING.

AN eastern journal giving some statistics in regard to electric lighting shows that so far, while the system may be profitable and beneficial for large spaces and places where a great volume of light is needed, it has not yet been a success in those respects for general use. It says:

"The problem of electric lighting on a small scale, where lights of from 10 to 20-candle power are required, remains unsolved, however. And until the present difficulties in the way of the practical and economical subdivision of the electric current shall be removed, there is no probability of electricity coming into general use as a substitute for gas. Though Mr. Edison and one or two sanguine inventors claim to have surmounted all difficulties, thoughtful people, who do not share these inventors' enthusiasm, shake their heads and say, 'the proof of the pudding is in the eating.'"

ABSURD REPORTS.

It is astonishing that sensible people will believe the ridiculous and groundless rumors which are circulated throughout the country about the "Mormons." Yet so it is, and ladies and gentlemen of intelligence and education when traveling across the continent will ask to be shown a "Mormon," when they enter the boundaries of Utah, as though they expected to see an entirely new specimen of the *genus homo*. It was at one time extensively believed that Brigham Young opened all the letters written by the "Mormons" to friends abroad, so that nothing unfriendly to "Mormonism" should pass the portals of Utah.

We once heard a "Christian" lady lecturer describe Salt Lake City to a public audience, and she pictured it as built in a hollow, with mountains all around it and high gates at every opening, at each of which a "Destroying Angel" was posted with a drawn sword, to cut down any woman who attempted to leave without permission. These old hobgoblin stories are dying out except in remote rural districts where good, pious parsons can impose them upon the unsophisticated, but reports just as silly and quite as destitute of foundation are sent abroad by the enemies of this work, to poison and prejudice the public mind and bar up the way of our missionaries who are sent out to preach the gospel of the Son of God.

Some of these ridiculous stories having been believed by people in Tennessee, where a couple of young missionaries from Utah are laboring, a very intelligent and respectable gentleman in that State wrote to an elderly lady of this city, whose address he had obtained, asking her to give him correct information, to which she promptly responded. We have been favored with the letter and the reply, the originals of both being in our possession. We do not know whether we are at liberty to use the gentleman's name or not, so suppress it for the present, but give the lady's signature, as well as her answer verbatim.

Here is the letter of inquiry:

"PERRY COUNTY, Tennessee,
Feb. 5th, 1881.

Mrs. Henderson:

The Elders from Utah having come in this neighborhood of late, I have listened to them with much interest, and their doctrines strike me very forcibly, but as so much prejudice exists, and many stories in circulation to the effect, that the poor women in Utah are very much oppressed, merely used as slaves and servants; also the men of poorer class are held under the hammer by those holding authority, and even

sometimes their wives taken from them by the presiding officers; that when those who come to Utah have the freedom of their country taken away from them as what we would term 'free American citizens,' and that unity does not abound. These, with many other reports, are circulated in this neighborhood as being true, and believed by many. As for myself, I do not believe impure water comes from a pure fountain; but as a source of satisfaction to myself and several others, I take the liberty of addressing a letter to one of the said abused women of Utah (a widow of humble nature, as told to me).

I hope you will pardon my inquiries. I do it for the pure motive to know the truth and information of importance. I hope in answer you will tell me the plain truth as regard your treatment, the general desire and feelings of the so-called "Mormons." Are the people oppressed, or do they enjoy their freedom and liberty, or are they subject to any cruelties from your leaders? If you will please answer the plain truths in regard to these matters, you will oblige.

I remain an interested friend to their doctrines.

Following is the reply:

SALT LAKE CITY,
Feb. 17th, 1881.

Mr. —

Dear Sir: I have just received a letter addressed to me with your name signed, dated Feb. 5th, with a request that I write you truthfully on one or two subjects, which I will do with pleasure the best I can. I was baptized into the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the year 1848, in the City of Glasgow, Scotland. I remained in Scotland until the year 1864, when I came with a company of Saints to Utah. When I first heard the gospel preached by the Elders of the Church, I was a member of the Presbyterian Church, and very firm in that faith, believing I was right; indeed I might say I was a bigot in what I thought was religion, but when I heard an Elder of the Latter-day Saints set forth the truth of the gospel in all its beauty and simplicity, I soon began to see that I was wrong, and I saw by the influence of the spirit of truth that in order to be saved, I must obey and yield obedience to the ordinances of the gospel. I can say to-day I thank my Heavenly Father with all my heart for this great blessing.

You speak of the women of Utah being oppressed, and used merely as slaves. I have been associated with this people for many long years and I can truly say that no one has tried to exercise any undue authority over me. I have always used my own pleasure in attending to my own affairs. I have never seen any of that slavery you speak of.

You speak of the men of the poorer class. The men of all classes attend to their own affairs, and inasmuch as men do right and honor their high and holy calling as the servants of God, they are honored and respected by all true Latter-day Saints, no matter how poor they are. But if men are corrupt, and do things that are not consistent with the law of the gospel they cannot expect to have the approbation of good men and women. About the presiding officers taking men's wives away from them, that is nonsense in the extreme. About people having their freedom taken away from them, how could such a thing be done? We have liberties here that few places could boast of. The ladies in Utah have the right to vote. I always perform that duty cheerfully, and thank God for the privilege of being a free American citizen.

You speak of a want of union here among our people. If there is not union amongst the Latter-day Saints, where will you find union? We have obeyed the gospel, and the fruits of the gospel are union, joy and peace, with every other good thing. We believe God means what he says; and he has said that he would withhold no good thing from his saints.

We are misrepresented as a people. All those things that you have named in your letter are stories that are got up by our enemies to try to retard the progress of truth, and many honest people are led to believe them, because they have no way of knowing about us. If you were here and would see how we live, and understood the principles of our faith, you would be surprised and wonder why such falsehoods are ever circulated about any Christian people. I believe we are trying

to do the best we can; and because we are evil spoken of, it does not affect the truth in the least. Truth is eternal, and will prevail. Our Savior told his disciples when he was on the earth, if they were of the world, the world would love them; but if they were not of the world, the world would hate them. Our Savior was not of the world; he was persecuted, and at last they took his life.

Now, what I have written is the truth as far as I know. And I want to say to you, that I know the gospel is true, and I have never had a desire to change it for anything else.

The young Elder that is with you is a man of integrity and truth. You can rely on what he tells you. He has left his home and friends, and is willing to spend his time laboring for the good of the human family, and carry the truth to those who have never heard it; and all who treat him kindly will not lose their reward. Our Savior said on one occasion, inasmuch as ye have administered a cup of cold water to one of the least of these, ye have done it unto me.

Hoping I have written for your satisfaction, I remain yours,
MARY HENDERSON.

If more letters like the foregoing were written to disabuse the public mind, and more printer's ink used for the same purpose, prejudice would be greatly allayed and the way would be smoothed for the feet of our missionaries. A copy of the SEMI-WEEKLY NEWS, sent occasionally by each Seventy who is not in the field of active ministry, would be a simple, effective, and easy way of helping in the good work and of assisting in sending the gospel abroad to all nations.

ENFORCEMENT OF LAW.

THE Cleveland *Herald* alludes to the message of the Governor of Idaho, calling attention to the "spread of polygamy" in that Territory, and the remarks of this paper on that subject, and says, "there is a growing feeling that the time is at hand when the law against polygamy must be enforced to the letter."

We wish to assure the *Herald* that we have not said anything against the lawful enforcement of any law of the land, and that what the Idaho Governor asked for was not the enforcement of law, but the enactment of measures in violation of the plainest principles of law, being nothing less than penalties against citizens for their simple belief. The Legislature gave the foolish Executive a fitting rebuke, and every person and paper in the country that has any respect for freedom of thought and faith should endorse the action of the Assembly. Enforcement of law is one thing, the enactment of statutes to punish religious belief is another and different thing, and we do not think there is a "growing feeling" in favor of reverting to the medieval methods of "Christian" barbarism.

A "PRESS" REPETITION.

THE Philadelphia *Press* treats its readers to a rehash in a condensed form, of the Goodwin mess of anti-"Mormon" fiction, which somehow found its way into the North American *Review*, and of which the publishers seem to be ashamed, as they do not notice it in their circulated detached notices of contents. The *Press* says the article will "open the eyes of many to the fact that we have among us what is practically a foreign kingdom, opposed to our laws, our beliefs and almost everything that is held holy and sacred in religion, politics and society by the citizens of the United States at large."

We think that it will "open the eyes of many to the fact" that the maligners of the "Mormons" continually repeat stale and irrational stories without offering anything by way of proof, and that the effect will be to convince them that no proof can be adduced.

The *Press* quotes from the alleged interview with "Bishop" Lunt, by a *Chronicle* reporter, and says, "such evidence coming direct from a Mormon Bishop is striking proof," etc. Softly, Mr. *Press*, this did not come "direct from a Mormon Bishop," but was filtered through the brain and manipulated by the fingers of a traveling newspaper reporter hunting for sensations. Wonderfully "direct" proof is it not?

The *Press* says further, that the subject is one known only to those who have given it "long and careful study or else those who have resided long enough among the believers," and numbers Goodwin among them. There again the *Press* is mistaken. That rash and flippant writer of unprovable assertions has been a resident here but a few months, and has had no opportunity of learning anything about the people and their beliefs and aims, except that which has been told him by the opposing class among whom he mingles. And that he has not made the subject his careful study is evident to any one who knows anything of the history and tenets of the "Mormons." He betrays the grossest ignorance of these matters, and statements of facts that may have come before his notice are made with singular fatuity, as their untruth is well known to all classes in this Territory.

We advise the *Press*, if it has any desire to be accurate, not to copy the unsubstantiated statements of anyone on a subject that has been so widely misrepresented as "Mormonism." And we can assure all who have read the article in the *Review*, that there is scarcely anything in it that is worthy of the slightest credence.

THE FORTY-SIXTH AND FORTY-SEVENTH.

THERE seems to be some misunderstanding in regard to the time of the commencement of the Forty-Seventh Congress. Mr. Minority Campbell, it is represented, has gone to Washington to see the inauguration and take the oath of office as Delegate from Utah.

The Forty-Sixth Congress closes at noon of March 4th, and the term of the Forty-Seventh commences immediately thereafter. If there is no session specially called by President Garfield, and it may now safely be said there will be no such call, the oath of office will not be taken by any Representative or Delegate until the first Monday in December next, when the Forty-Seventh Congress will convene. The roll of the House is simply made up by the Clerk of the closing Congress, who remains in office until his successor is elected. The new Senate, however, will meet at once after the inauguration, for a few day's executive session, to confirm the members of the Cabinet and other prominent appointees of the new Administration.

This being the case, Mr. Minority will have his ignorance enlightened a little, and will not be able to do any swearing but that kind to which he is accustomed, at least for several months to come.

The expiring Congress has not been a very brilliant one, the Democracy have not made a good use of their opportunities and it is to be hoped that the next will be more prolific of measures for the public welfare.

THE INAUGURATION.

ELSEWHERE in this paper will be found a full report of President Garfield's Inaugural address. We give place to this document to the exclusion of all other telegraphic dispatches this afternoon, a full report of the inauguration ceremonies, and the closing hours of the Forty-Sixth Congress will be published to-morrow, the adjournment having taken place to-day at 12 o'clock. As will be seen, the new Executive opens his career by a slight reference to polygamy. With the exception of that single paragraph, the address is a sound, statesmanlike paper, treating ably on all the current issues of the day. We may add that General Hancock entered the Senate Chamber in time to witness the ceremonies there, being conducted by Senator Blaine, and was received with great applause and enthusiasm, Republicans as well as Democrats flocking to shake his hand.

GARFIELD'S INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

FELLOW CITIZENS:—We stand to-day upon an eminence which overlooks a hundred years of national life, a century crowded with perils, but crowded with triumphs of liberty and love. Before continuing the onward march let us pause on this

height for a moment to strengthen our faith and renew our hope by a glance at the pathway along which our people traveled.

It is now three days more than a hundred years since the adoption of the first written Constitution of the United States, the articles of federation and popular union. The new republic had not conquered a place in the family of nations. The decisive ballot of war for independence, whose centennial anniversary will be gratefully celebrated at Yorktown had not been fought. The colonists were struggling not only against the armies of Great Britain, but against the seated opinions of mankind, for the world did not believe the supreme authority of government could be safely entrusted to the guardianship of the people themselves. We cannot overestimate the fervent love of liberty, the intelligent courage and the common sense with which our fathers made the great experiment of self-government. When they found in a short time that the confederacy of states was too weak to meet the necessities of the vigorous and expanding public, they boldly set it aside, and in its stead established a national union founded directly upon the will of the people, endowed with the future powers of self-preservation and with ample authority for the accomplishment of its great object. Under this constitution the boundaries of freedom have been enlarged, the foundations of order and peace have been strengthened and growth in all the better elements of national life had vindicated the wisdom of the founders and given new hope to their descendants. Under this Constitution our people long ago made themselves safe against danger from without and secured for their mariners and flag equality of rights on all seas. Under this Constitution 23 States have been added to the Union. With a Constitution and laws framed and enforced by them our citizens secure the manifold blessings of local and self-government. The jurisdiction of this Constitution now covers an area fifty times greater than that of the original States and a population twenty times greater than that of 1780.

The supreme trial of the Constitution came at last under the tremendous pressure of civil war. We ourselves are witnesses that the Union emerged from the blood and fire of that conflict purified and made stronger at the close of this first century of its growth. With the inspirations of its history in their hearts our people have lately reviewed the condition of the nation, passed judgment upon the conduct and opinions of its political parties, and have registered their will concerning the future administration of the government. To interpret and execute that will in accordance with the Constitution, is the paramount duty of the Executive. Even from this brief review, it is manifest that the nation is resolutely facing to the front, resolved to employ its best energies in the development of the great possibilities of the future, sacredly preserving whatever has been gained to liberty and good government during the first century. Our people are delighted to leave behind them all the bitter controversies over things which have been irrevocably settled and a further discussion of which can only stir up strife and delay the onward march. The supremacy of the nation and its laws should be no longer a subject of debate. That discussion which for half a century threatened the existence of union was closed at last in the high court of war by a decision from which there is no appeal. The Constitution and laws made in pursuance thereof, shall continue to be the supreme law of the land, binding alike upon the States and the people. This decree does not disturb the autonomy of the States nor interfere with any of their necessary rules of local self-government, but it does fix and establish the permanent supremacy of the Union. The will of the nation, speaking with the voice of battle and through an amended Constitution, has fructified the great progress of 1776 by proclaiming liberty throughout the land to all inhabitants thereof. The elevation of the negro race from slavery to the enjoyment of the full rights of citizenship is the most important political change we have known since the adoption of the Constitution of 1787. No thoughtful man can fail to appreciate its beneficent effect upon our institutions and people. It has freed us from the perpetual danger of war and desolation. It has added immensely to the moral and industrial forces of our people. I