

THE DESERET NEWS.

"TRUTH AND LIBERTY."

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FUTILE OPPOSITION.

This people's character for truthfulness, honesty of purpose and moral integrity, has been so frequently and triumphantly vindicated, that now it might be thought to be fully established. It has passed through so many fiery ordeals, has endured so many furious assaults on these points, from bitter, persistent, and in many instances, talented enemies, that it would scarcely seem more than reasonable to expect that by this time its assailants would be convinced of the folly of repeating their attacks. If any success had ever attended the efforts of those who have undertaken, from time to time, to convince the world, that this people were a base and evil designing people, then it might be expected that this success, however little it might be, would embolden others to follow in their steps. But though the work of defaming and blackening the character of this people has been pursued for long years, yet success has never attended it. In every instance the hypocrisy and falsehood of those who have undertaken it have been exposed, and their statements completely refuted. A mass of evidence has been laid before the public that has been overwhelmingly conclusive in favor of our purity and upright intentions; and it has had the effect sooner or later to utterly condemn and render contemptible every effort made against us.

In the commencement, the opponents of this work thought it would be an easy matter to put a stop to a system so apparently insignificant. They affected to believe that this work was a humbug too transparent and Joseph Smith an impostor too ignorant to require a very great effort on the part of the wise and the learned to crush it and expose him. Any story no matter how puerile, any charge no matter how inconsistent, were deemed sufficient to blow "Mormonism" to the four winds and fully bring to light the character of its advocates. But to the chagrin and disappointment of the fabricators of these stories and charges, "Mormonism" was not arrested in its progress by their circulation; Joseph Smith and his associates were still believed to be men of God, and their words were even listened to and believed by many among whom these stories and charges had been carefully and industriously circulated. Years ago the stories and charges which were then thought by our opponents to be altogether sufficient and just what was needed to crush "Mormonism" and overwhelm its professors with shame and confusion, were proved to be false and unfounded. There was no charge or story circulated then that did not meet with a complete refutation and exposure in every place where it obtained circulation. From that time to the present this has continued to be the case; this system and this people have lived down every charge that has been brought against them.

The stories and charges that were in vogue quarter of a century ago, and that were then thought to be insurmountable barriers in the way of the progress of this work and the increase of this people, are now scarcely, if ever, referred to. No man that has any judgment about the credulity of mankind, or that has any wish to make his opposition to "Mormonism" tell, will ever quote them. The whole world, or that portion of it that is posted up in relation to passing events, is satisfied, though it may not always be acknowledged, of their falsity. The opponents of this work and the vilifiers of the character of this people, therefore, have had to repeatedly alter their tactics. The old charges and stories have had to be laid at one side, or sent to some country where the people were about receiving "Mormonism" and where they would be new, and new ones have been substituted in their stead. But the new have ever shared a similar fate with the old; their falsity has also been made manifest, and the wickedness and malice of their authors fully exposed.

The world, it might be thought, would begin, after all that has passed, to see this people in their true light. The attempts to destroy their character for virtue, uprightness and every other good quality, have been so numerous and of so varied a nature, and have so

signally failed in every instance, that all ought to be convinced that this people are a righteous and pure people. But we do not expect that this will be the case. We would have failed to profit by the experience of the past, if we were to look for such results at present. As well might we have looked for them when we resided in the States, as to look for them now. Who does not know either from actual experience or from reading, that when we resided in Nauvoo, Illinois, and were accused of every imaginable crime, that numerous disinterested men—men who did not belong to our Church and whose religious prejudices were in no wise favorable to our doctrines, published their testimony in contradiction of every charge that had been made against us? These contradictions had weight with many for the time being; and when we were driven from our homes, and were compelled to take refuge in these western wilds, many thought we were a cruelly persecuted and unjustly treated people. But these feelings in many instances only continued for a brief period. They remained as a general thing until the next storm of lies rode forth and swept them away, then they were forgotten.

Since we have been here it has been the same. Charges have been made, stories have been fabricated and circulated against us of the most damning nature; but they have been fully exposed as false in every instance, and the public with the journalists of the day, have had the evidence of their falsity laid before them. This has generally caused a reaction for the time being; but it has lasted no longer than was necessary to give our opponents time to recover from the effects of their failure and to concoct a new plan of attack. When a new batch of lies came forth, they have been as ready to believe them as they were the old ones, and all the evidence in our favor that they previously may have had, is as though it never had an existence. We look for this to continue so long as men are influenced as they are at present. There is not a sufficient amount of manliness or good principle about those who have the opportunity to mould and control public opinion to take a straight-forward, independent course in regard to this people. They succumb and bow to the feeling that is popular for the hour. If it be against this people, though they may be satisfied, if evidence could satisfy them, that it is incorrect, all right. If the reaction should be in our favor, they will either say nothing about the matter or be very careful not to compromise themselves in the least.

While Satan has place in the hearts of the children of men, they will continue to act in this manner towards this people. He seems to have the power to blind their eyes to the inconsistency and folly of their course; and they become the instruments in his hands to carry out his purposes. Of this, however, all may be assured, that the fate which has hitherto befallen every one that has used his exertions to vilify and defame this people and their doctrines, will be the fate of those who may hereafter tread in their footsteps. The wife of Haman and his wise men predicted with no greater certainty his downfall before Mordecai, than this can be predicted concerning them.

THE MEDUSA AND ITS LOCOMOTIVE PRINCIPLE.—The least diameter we could assign to the collection was from thirty to forty miles; and at the rate of one to every ten square feet of surface, which seemed to be a very moderate estimate, there must have been some 225,000,000 of them, even in the surface stratum. Probably there might well have been so many to furnish food for their giant destroyers; but for numbers of victims, the whales were infinitely outdone by the medusa. They were in the form of hollow gelatinous lobes, arranged in groups of five or nine, with an orange vein down the centre of each lobe. They moved slowly by sucking in water at one end of the lobe, and expelling it at the other—a principle of locomotion which, from time to time, inventors have proposed for steamboats; but in the medusa was attended, doubtless, with the means of straining the water of all its diatomaceous particles.

Examining in the microscope a portion of one of the orange veins, apparently the stomach of the creature, it was found to be extraordinarily rich in diatoms; and of the most bizarre forms, as stars, Maltese crosses, embossed circles, semi-circles, and spirals. The whole stomach could hardly have contained less than seven hundred thousand; and when we multiply these by the number of lobes, and then by the number of groups, we shall have some idea of the countless millions of diatoms that go to make a feast for the medusa; some of the softest things in the world thus confounding and devouring the hardest, the flinty-shelled diatomaceæ.—[Teneriffe, on *Astronomer's Experiment*. By C. Piazza Smyth.

FIRST RATE WHITEWASH.—We procured at a paint store a dollar's worth of first quality "Paris white"—33 lbs., at three cents per lb.—and for this quantity one pound of white glue, of the best quality, usually called Cooper's glue, because manufactured by Peter Cooper, of New York. Retail price 50 cents per pound. For one day's work, half a pound of glue was put in a tin vessel, and covered with cold water over night. In the morning this was carefully heated until dissolved, when it was added to 16 lbs. of the Paris white, previously stirred in a moderate quantity of hot water. Enough water was then added to give the whole a proper milky consistency, when it was applied with a brush in the ordinary manner. Our 33 pounds of Paris white and one pound of glue suffice for two ceilings, and the walls and ceilings of seven other small rooms.

A single coat is equal to a double coat of lime wash, while the white is far more brilliant than lime. Indeed, the color is nearly equal to that of "Zinc White," which costs at least four times as much. We are satisfied, by repeated trials, that no whitewash can be made to adhere firmly without glue, or some kind of sizing, and this will invariably be colored in time with the caustic lime. The Paris white, on the contrary, is simply pure washed chalk, and is entirely inert, producing no caustic effect on the sizing. Any of our readers who try this, and are as well pleased with it as we are, will consider the information worth many times the cost of an entire volume of the *Agriculturist*. Had we known of it when we first set up housekeeping, it would have saved us much labor, and the annoyance of garments often soiled by contact with whitewash—not to mention the saving of candles, secured by always having the ceiling white enough to reflect instead of absorbing the rays of light.—[*American Agriculturist*.

TO KEEP TIRES TIGHT ON WHEELS.—I wish to communicate to the public a method by which tires on wheel carriages may be kept tight. I ironed a wagon some years ago, for my own use, and before putting on the tires, I filled the felloes with linseed oil; and the tires have worn out and were never loose. I ironed a buggy for my own use seven years ago, and the tires are now as tight as when put on. My method of filling the felloes with oil is as follows: I use a long cast iron oil heater, made for the purpose, the oil is brought to a boiling heat, the wheel is placed on a stick, so as to hang in the oil, each felloe one hour, for a common sized felloe.

The timber should be dry, as green timber will not take oil. Care should be taken that the oil be made no hotter than a boiling heat, in order that the timber be not burnt. Timber filled with oil is not susceptible of water, and the timber is much more durable. I was amused, some time ago, when I told a blacksmith how to keep tires tight on wheels, by his telling me it was a profitable business to tighten tires, and the wagon maker will say, it is profitable to him to make and repair wheels—but what will the farmer, who supports the wheelwright and smith, say?—Cor. *Southern Planter*.

THE CAPITAL OF VICTORIA.—Melbourne, as it appears to us, is a kind of modern Babel—a little hell upon earth—a city of rioters, gamblers and drunkards—a crowded den of human iniquity—where, from the highest merchant downward, there appears to be but one object in view—where the very faculties of mind, body and soul, are employed and directed to one worldly end—where thousands are anxiously and almost exclusively bent towards the consummation of their own selfish and ambitious desires—where delusive schemes are the pickpockets of honesty, and where the abuse of useful invention is too often the bane of its own utility—where calm reflection and all the higher attributes of the mind lose their influence in artificial excitement—where the ties of friendship, domestic duties, kindred obligations, intellectual study, and the immortal spirit of true religion are often neglected, if not entirely forgotten, in the busy work of self-aggrandisement—where, in fine, the priceless possessions of health, together with all those sweet enjoyments which constitute the real happiness of life, fall a sacrifice to an insatiable thirst for gain.—[*Pusey's Australia*.

AN ILL-TIMED REJOINDER.—The pagan chief Radbod had already immersed one of his royal legs in the baptismal font, when a thought struck him. "Where are my dead forefathers at present?" he said, turning suddenly upon Bishop Wolfran. "In hell, with all other unbelievers," was the imprudent answer. "Mighty well," replied Radbod, removing his leg, "then will I rather feast with my ancestors in the hell of Woden, than dwell in your little starveling band of Christians in Heaven." Entreaties and threats were unavailing. The Frisian declined positively a rite which was to cause an eternal separation from his buried kindred; and he died as he lived, a heathen!—[*Motley's Dutch Republic*.

HOW TO TAN A SHEEP SKIN.—To tan a sheep skin so as to make it nearly, if not quite equal to buckskin, soak the skin in water a day or two, then with the back of a common draw-shave scrape off the wool and grain, then take off the flesh. Mix four table-spoonsful of good soft soap, and four of tanner's oil, and one of salt, and rub well on both sides of the skin, and then roll it up in a wet cloth and lay it in the cellar for four days; then hang up to dry, exposed to the air but not to the sun, and pull it occasionally to soften it.

GENERAL DEARBORN AND MR. DUPONT.—We find an anecdote in the truly entertaining "Recollections of John Binns," which is as follows:—When the war of 1812 was declared, the then Secretary of War, Gen. Dearborn, made a contract with one of the Messrs. Dupont, of Washington, for gunpowder. At that time these gentlemen were the only extensive manufacturers of that article in the Union. The contract being completed, Gen. Dearborn, who was something of what is now called a Know Nothing, said to Mr. Dupont, who was a Frenchman, "My only regret in making this contract, is that I have been obliged to make it with a foreigner." "Pray, sir," said Mr. Dupont, "may I ask where you were born?" "Sir," said the general, "I was born in Boston." "Then, sir," said Mr. Dupont, "you were not consulted as to your coming, and you came naked and helpless. I came of my own choice; I brought a sound mind and body, and the information and capital I had acquired, and have thus been enabled to establish the manufacture of an article of the first necessity. To which, sir, do you think the country is most indebted?"

VERMIN RIDDANCE.—Half an ounce of soap boiled in a pint of water, and put on with a brush while boiling hot, infallibly destroys the bugs and their eggs.

Flies are driven out of a room by hanging up a bunch of the Plantain or Fleawort plant, after it has been dipped in milk.

Rats and mice speedily disappear by mixing equal quantities of strong cheese and powdered squills. They devour this mixture with great greediness, while it is innocuous to man.

STORRS TOWNSHIP, OHIO, boasts of a smart justice whose decisions rival any of the Dutch magistrates on the Hudson River. A banking House in Cincinnati brought an action against one of the citizens of Storrs for \$40, which sum had long been due, and it was now demanded with interest at the rate charged when the money was lent. The decision of the Court was:

- "1. Both attorneys in the above case must be held responsible for the costs.
- "2. Any person putting his money in such a place should lose it.
- "3. The claim is rather ancient.
- "4. Four per cent. per month is unconstitutional in Storrs Township.
- "5. No monopoly of that kind can recover from the godly citizens of Storrs Township.
- "6. Judgment against Screw, Jew and Co. for costs.
- "7. Notice of appeal considered a contempt of Court in Storrs Township.
- "8. When one rogue sues another rogue in Storrs Township neither shall recover."

A MONSTER "TOAD STOOL."—The attention of several provincial botanists has been recently called to a fungus of most remarkable, and it is believed, unprecedented development, now growing in a tunnel in a sandstone rock in the immediate vicinity of Doncaster. The plant is 13 feet 6 inches in diameter, and very much resembles a white lace skirt, with a richly embroidered border, spread out flat. It has been referred to the *Hydnum barba foris*, but much uncertainty prevails as to its true classification, as nothing like it is on record. Its peculiar growth is believed to have been due to the singular conditions under which it has been produced. The plant has attained its present size in ten months, and is still growing vigorously. It at present extends nearly over the roof and half way down the side of the tunnel, and when examined with a lighted candle, the fibres radiating from the roof to the outer circle, shine like threads of silver, and it is altogether a very striking and beautiful object.—[*Liverpool paper*.

CHINESE FOOD.—The correspondent of the *London Times*, who has been making deep investigations, writes that much injustice has been done the Chinese in the matter of their food. It is true that they indulge in rats, and are even open to the soft impeachment of dog-eating. But we are told that "the rats are field rats, caught and dried after harvest, and the dogs have been carefully fed upon rice and meal." Also, that their pork is far more white and delicate in flavor than the pork of London, and it is fed with care and cleanliness from which some English dairies might well take pattern.

Punch gives the following rules for running your health: 1st, stop in bed late; 2d, hot suppers; 3d, turn day into night, night into day; 4th, take no exercise; 5th, always ride when you can walk; 6th, never mind about wet feet; 7th, have half a dozen doctors; 8th, drink all the remedies they send you; 9th, try every new quack; 10th, if that doesn't kill you quack yourself.

GOLD IN VERMONT.—A correspondent of the *New York Express* says that great excitement prevails around Montpelier, Vt., by the discovery of gold in quantities. The Winooski river and its branches abound with it. It is very similar to the California gold. Large veins have been discovered.

The man who carries a lantern in a dark night can have friends all around him, walking safely by the help of its rays, and be not defrauded. So he who has the God-given light of hope in his breast can help on many others in this world's darkness, not to his own loss but to their precious gain.