

## DESERET EVENING NEWS

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## THE MINISTERS' FOLLY.

The Deseret News does not think it necessary to police every nonsensical attack on the "Mormon" Church by sectarian preachers or bigoted politicians; they are too numerous and too petty even to recapitulate. But once in a while it becomes prudent to take up charges that may deceive the uninformed unless answer is made, and to prevent if possible the frequent plea that such and such statements have "never been denied."

It is on this account that we refer to the most recent deliverance of a bilious mental condition by the coterie of ministers in this city, whose chief occupation appears to be that of spying upon their "Mormon" neighbors, and formulating accusations against them for political and defamatory purposes. The present fulmination is, in the main, based upon a series of "ifs," and contingent upon the accuracy or otherwise of a newspaper report. It amounts to very little, but some attention has been attracted to one positive resolution, adopted and signed by the President and Secretary of the association, as follows:

"One reason why Christian ministers in Utah do not have more property is because the president of the Mormon church and the twelve apostles have appropriated to themselves about everything there is in the way of real estate, bank stock, railroad stock, Salt Lake stock, light and power stock, wagon company stock, sugar company stock, and last, but not least, knitting company stock for their countless unending families."

Now, is there one individual in the entire cabal who believes there is any truth in that paragraph? In what way has any preacher, or other person, been prevented from acquiring real estate or shares in the companies and corporations that have been formed in this State for material advancement? Do those resolving ministers mean to say that the Presidency and Twelve Apostles of the "Mormon" Church own all the real estate in this region, and all the stock in the various business enterprises mentioned? If not, what do they mean?

It appears that those ministers read the daily papers. What do all the columns of advertisements for the sale of real estate, houses, lots, farms, ranches and meadows signify? Who hinders either of the resolvers from purchasing, or leasing, or renting a piece or pieces of such property? There has always been real estate on sale in Utah from the beginning until now, and on easy terms, too, for anybody, Jew or Gentile, Catholic or Protestant, white or colored who was ready to buy. And it is not true, as some of those resolvers have tried to make appear to people outside, that the "Mormon" Church owned the land and sold it to their own people. Land is owned and conveyed and the title held here, by each occupant as in other parts of this country. They knew that as well as anybody. Why then do they put forth such a palpable falsehood as that we have quoted above?

The same opportunities for the purchase of stock in the various organizations they have named have been open to them, ever since the inception of the companies. The stock was upon the market from the first. Every business man knows that. The gentlemen alluded to as having "appropriated to themselves about everything there is in the way" of those ventures do not own anything approaching to "everything there is in the way" of the capital stock therein. Non-"Mormon" shareholders can be found in them to very large amounts, in some cases to the ownership of the majority of the shares.

The hardship exhibited in that declaration of the sectarian preachers of this city is amazing, even in view of the many untruths and false insinuations in which they have indulged for years. Their statement is known to be palpably untrue by almost every person here who reads it. Yet that is sent out for the people of the east to read, and for the special deception of the legislators of this nation! Most of the Senators and Repre-

sentatives in Congress, to whom it is particularly addressed, if they pay any attention to it at all, will see its utter absurdity and shameless mendacity, and judge of the whole series of resolutions by that simple paragraph.

The different enterprises named were started by business men for the benefit of the community. Prominent members of the Church encouraged them, not only by word but by deed. They helped to establish them and push them forward. This has been the policy of the leading men in the Church from the beginning of the settlement of these valleys. But for their labors and personal interest there would have been no manufactures here, and this whole region would have been comparatively worthless. It was "Mormon" energy, skill, determination, perseverance in the face of gigantic difficulties and unity of purpose and act that made it possible for those defamers of their neighbors to come here and live. Those calumniators have never contributed anything by brain or sinew, thought or muscle, money or encouragement to any material enterprise, except by way of begging for funds for some chapel or building to effect their own purposes and help increase their own hire.

Other non-"Mormons" who are not preachers or bearers of false witness, have joined in the good work of building up the country, and are respected for their good qualities as citizens and progressive residents. But these persons who do nothing but live on what other people have produced, make excuse that they have not had the opportunity to obtain real estate or shares in various companies, and that is "why they do not have more property," and why their names (with one or two exceptions) are not to be found on the list of taxpayers. How did they expect to acquire such property, real or personal? By gift or donation, or did they think they could "appropriate" it, as they basely insinuate the "Mormon" leaders obtained it? Shame on them for such bald audacity and puerile falsehood!

But for the clerical defamers who are failures in every other way, there would be peace in this State and people who are a strength to the body politic would come here from all quarters and take up their abode and invest their capital. But the continual bearing of false witness by persons posing as ministers of the gospel gives Utah a bad name, and the word "Mormon" serves as a terror or means of reproach, and so this commonwealth is kept back on the march of progress. But as sure as the heavens smile after a storm and our clear blue sky shows its loveliness when the clouds have rolled away, the truth will shine eventually, the manufacturers of falsehood will perish, the "refuge of lies" will be swept away, and this State and its people of all sects, parties and persuasions will pass beyond the miserable plottings of petty preachers and scheming politicians, and stand in its strength and beauty as the Zion of the latter-days.

## A QUESTION OF INSPIRATION.

The anniversary of the birthday of the Prophet Joseph is well worthy of remembrance; for the work he was called upon to perform, and which he accomplished during a brief career, is of the most stupendous importance to mankind, whether it is accepted or rejected.

One of the great missions with which he was charged, was to give to the world in modern vernacular, part of the record of God's dealings with His children on this continent in ancient times. He did so through the same power that led men in former ages to declare the will of God. He brought to light the Book of Mormon, so long preserved for this age and generation.

That such a work was needed, the present condition of the "Christian" world proves. It appears as if "higher criticism" would soon reduce the Bible to myth, and faith to superstition. The Book of Mormon is therefore highly needed as another witness. And as such it came to the world, though most unexpectedly.

Ever since the appearance of the Book of Mormon, critics who hope to discover some excuse for not accepting the truth, have objected to it on the ground of defects in spelling and grammar. The claim that the book was written by inspiration originally, and translated by the Prophet Joseph by the power of God, has been ridiculed, and denied on that ground. And this has been done, strange to say, not by the ignorant multitudes, but by persons who claim to be well informed, and who therefore must know, that imperfections are not lacking in the New Testament, for instance, which they, however, accept as the word of God. It is unfair to reject the Book of Mormon on grounds that are not, by believers, urged against the Bible.

It is not claimed that the inspiration which was granted to the founder of the Church in this age is higher than, or of a different kind to, that which they, however, accept as the word of God. It is unfair to reject the Book of Mormon on grounds that are not, by believers, urged against the Bible.

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Him: "Master, earnest thou not that we perish?" Luke's version is: "And they came to Him, and awoke Him, saying, 'Master, Master, we perish.'" That shows plainly that each writer, though inspired, made use of his own faculties in expressing the ideas that were present in his mind. Sometimes the quotations are so free as to render it difficult to trace them to the original source. The language of most of the New Testament writers was not classical. They were Galileans. Some of them, we presume, had learnt the foreign tongue in which the New Testament was written at an advanced age. They spoke and wrote, even under inspiration, as well as they could, and no better. All this is well known to scholars who criticize the Book of Mormon for imperfections of grammar. Inspiration does not place pen, ink, and paper before the man who is inspired. It does not guide his hand to form letters according to the rules of perfect penmanship. Nor does it teach him to spell according to the latest adopted rules, or to form sentences that are infallible, in the light of the newest grammar. Through inspiration truth is presented to the mind of the one under its influence, but the expression of that truth in language, necessarily rests with the instrument chosen.

The divine artist may play upon the instrument and produce the music intended, but this is different according to the nature of the instrument. A flute will not give the same kind of music as the trombone, though operated upon by the same artist. Whether the prophet is spoken to audibly by the divine messenger, or the truth is conveyed to him by inward suggestion, or by dreams and visions does not matter. The expression of that truth in human language is a human process, and must necessarily be so, if it is to be understood by other human beings.

Between Santa Claus and Patti many a man will go broke.

This is the season when even the dull-child becomes gifted.

The cold weather and the smooth ice give one the skating fever.

Everybody, including the learned and the love-lorn, talks shop these days.

The Livermen's strike may compel Chicago to institute military funerals.

Great Britain and France have both said to Japan: "Nay, nay, Pauline."

The first requisite for a running mate for Mr. Roosevelt is that he step lively.

The U. of U. boys say the Carlisle Indians haven't got untutored minds by a long shot.

In diplomatic language the European powers have said to Colombia: Don't make a fool of yourself.

In Chicago it is getting so that a man can neither live nor be buried unless he has a union label plastered on him.

"Who are the people?" asks the New York World. Outside of the Three Tailors of Tooley street it would be hard to say.

The Panama affair is now considered a closed incident. This means that after awhile the canal will be an open question.

In his far western home will Mr. Bryan hang the photograph of the Czar beside that of the "czar" who lives at Princeton?

Since the defalcation of Secretary Mcowan the University of California contemplates establishing a commercial course, with bookkeeping as the major subject.

The grand lodge of Odd Fellows of Ohio has issued an order taboing saloonkeepers. The saloonkeepers think the grand lodge are very odd fellows indeed.

A Chicago professor boasts that he has not taken a bath for two years. There are hundreds of Digger Indians who could boast the same thing if they were so minded.

Those Italians at Sunnyside who paid their fines in preference to going to jail and now want to go to jail and have their fines refunded, must understand that infam trading doesn't go in the courts of Utah.

Oyez, oyez, the honorable the Supreme Court of the United States will behold a great light, it having decided to admit members of the press to the privilege of making note of the arguments and decision in cases before it. Great is the power of the press!

A Milwaukee German paper criticised a German actress there and new a German doctor wants to fight the German critic. This species of criticism heats narrow escapes from burning buildings or losing diamonds as a method of advertising; it should drive quite a run.

OUR TURKISH FIGURE.

Springfield Republican.

The trouble which the United States consul at Alexandria reports ought to be susceptible of peaceful adjustment, and looking to the end, the disposition of our government to seek full information before acting. If an outrage has been wantonly committed by Turkish police on Consul Davis, the United States government will, of course, insist upon their punishment. The case evidently concerns, primarily, one of those former Turkish subjects who come to America to get naturalized in order to return to their old country and use their American citizenship as a protection for whatever designs they may have in mind. For years these quasi-Americans have made trouble for us in various countries abroad. They must be protected, of course, in their rights as American citizens, but they often embarrass the United States government by their abuse of the guarantees which this country affords to them.

New York Mail and Express.

This government will insist that proper reparation be made for the attack of Turkish constabularies on Consul Davis at Alexandria, Syria, in consequence of which he has been hauled down the flag from the consulate and taken ship for Beirut. Doubtless the Turkish government will make such reparation as the occasion demands. It is a unpleasant incident, but it

minor one, and after the Beirut affair of last summer the disposition of the administration will be first to investigate thoroughly.

New York Evening Sun.  
A returned Armenian with money in his pocket is likely to be dangerous to the public peace when he swims into the ken, as it were, of watchful Turkish officers. Back of all these cases of arbitrary arrest is the contention that the government does not recognize the American citizenship of its former subjects when they return to Turkey in an unofficial capacity. Consul Davis was no doubt doing his duty as he understood it, and blows may have been struck by his own party, as well as by the Turkish police, in the debate about the right of Alerian to go on ship-board.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

The war vessels sent to Beirut to investigate an assault on the American consul there have no sooner taken their departure than a similar incident is reported from the same territory. It was discovered in the former instance that the American official was more frightened than hurt, and the naval demonstration served chiefly to add to the gaudy of nations. Just how serious the latest affair is does not appear from the dispatches. The Turkish officials insist that they are acting wholly within their rights, and it is quite possible that the consul, after all, may have suffered only in his personal dignity and that the honor and interests of his country were not threatened.

New York Evening Post.

Mr. Davis, it would seem, wished to obtain permission for a naturalized American of Armenian birth to embark upon a steamer leaving for Egypt. The stupid Turks deliberately pointed out that their laws required certain formalities, including the photographing of the traveler, who had been journeying about Turkey in secret. Naturally, Mr. Davis made the proper American reply. When he wanted a thing done, it was to be done without an instant's delay. Photographing might make our Armenian fellow-citizen lose his steamers, and so Mr. Davis ordered the Turks to waive their tape, and Mr. Alerian to board his ship. When the Turkish police arrested the latter, Mr. Davis and his courtiers at once resented this insult, and at arm's length, even stormed the jail.

Kansas City Times.

According to the Turkish version of the affair Consul Davis and his American escort assaulted the police force of Alexandria. The survival of the Alexandretta police force makes this version an absurdity on its face.

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Value \$10.00, this week at (per set), \$7.35

Value \$13.50, this week at (per set), \$10.15

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