

## A WOMAN'S THOUGHTS.

WHY SAINTS IN VARIOUS AGES HAVE BEEN PERSECUTED—THE ACTIONS OF THE RIGHTEOUS AND THEIR AC-CUSERS REVIEWED.

The Latter-day Saints may be looked down upon and counted as the dregs of the earth, but, were we to judge by the conduct and the course pursued by the majority who have come here that are not of us, even of many who have borne the title of United States officials, and from the expressions of the public journals issued elsewhere describing the state of society outside of Utah, we have every cause for gratitude that the Lord suffered us to be banished from their midst when He did, and that we have gained a foothold here, where we are likely to remain, though the wicked within and without are combined to rout us. They will take only those who are a detriment, leaving the few who wish to be a separate and peculiar people and who can be easily distinguished from their would-be regenerators, who come here to sit in judgment upon the innocent and condemn them one and all. What is the pretext for condemning the Latter-day Saints? That they will not yield up a sacred principle, and persist in "holding out" their wives and children to the world, instead of making prostitutes and beggars of them, and indulging in all manner of secret iniquities after the patterns set throughout the world, which are being daily proclaimed "to the scandal of society."

Does it not sound like

## SATAN REBUKING SIN

when they talk of moral lepers, the degradation of women, and the injury that is being done to society by the practice of this order which is as ancient as the hills, and so honored by the Most High that His Son, the Only Begotten, came through the lineage of a polygamist—a "man after God's own heart," who was taken from the sheep-cote to be ruler over Israel, showing that God's ways are not as man's ways?"

We are also told that after he had taken many wives and concubines he took "more concubines and wives out of Jerusalem." And still he "went on and grew great; and the Lord God of hosts was with him." This would hardly lead one to suppose him

## UNCIVILIZED AND DEGRADED,

he, who was called a mighty king, and whom Saul was afraid of "because the Lord was with him, and was departed from Saul." His taking the wife of Uriah, and slaying him was the only thing he did which displeased the Lord.

The city of David was called Zion, and the Lord gave Solomon, his son, wisdom. As He promised he would, so that he "exceeded all the kings of the earth for riches and wisdom." "And all the earth sought to Solomon, to hear his wisdom, which the Lord had put in his heart." The Queen of Sheba, who heard the report of his acts and his wisdom, believed not the words until her eyes had seen it, "and, behold," said she, "the half was not told me: thy wisdom and prosperity exceedeth the fame which I heard." When he was old "his wives turned away his heart after other Gods; and his heart was not perfect with the Lord his God, as was the heart of David his father."

The Lord blessed Solomon as long as he kept His covenants and His statutes which He had commanded him. Although He declared that He would rend the kingdom from him and give it to his servant, yet, he made this promise. "In thy days I will not do it, for David thy father's sake." "I will make him a prince all the days of his life, for David my servant's sake, whom I chose, because he kept my commandments and my statutes."

It is most amazing to see the amount of ignorance which seems to prevail among people who profess such superior wisdom and learning.

Concubines, we understand, were lawful wives, but concubines are not known in this day, and no "Mormon" has had a multitude of wives.

If this order of marriage is so

## "OFFENSIVE TO THE MORAL SENSE

of the civilized world," why do they hold up the Bible as their standard, professing such admiration for it, and those grand old Patriarchs, who, out of their own mouths they declare "immoral and lecherous;" yet in the same breath (figuratively) they will preach about "resting in Abraham's bosom."

Let them first discard that sacred record, or all their weapons must fall harmless to the ground. O, the hypocrites and pious pretenders, who preach for hire and divine for money; who measure out salvation according to their will, or the size of one's purse, pardoning murderers on the scaffold, and punishing "Mormons" for practicing the ancient order of marriage, and giving unrestrained license to their own kind to practice all manner of licentiousness in the dark, so they do not "hold them out" as wives.

## IGNORANCE COULD BE PARDONED,

but ignorance they cannot plead. We know very well that they have only hit upon this as a pretext, for the want of something better, that they may work upon the feelings of those who are filled with the traditions of their fathers, and thus soothe the consciences of persons afar off, who might otherwise withhold their assistance in

carrying out their benevolent and christianlike (?) schemes.

There are honorable exceptions in every community, and we occasionally meet that class who are unbiased and can afford to look at the "Mormon" side of the question. Such are worthy of respect though they differ from us in religious views, and we would be glad for their own sakes, as well as ours, could more of the honorable of the earth come and see for themselves.

Methods the schemes of our would-be civilizers would be sadly thwarted were their accused to have a fair trial before a just and honorable jury instead of those picked from their bitterest enemies and many of them from the lowest scum, those who are known to be living in open violation of the laws of God, as well as the laws of the land; encouraging whoredoms, child-murder, and the thousand and one evils that are so rife among other communities and destructive of peace and family relations.

The filthy sheet published here is only a mouthpiece for hypocrites, falsifiers and evildoers, who are plotting against a people as far above them as heaven is above Hades, and would have been squelched years ago by any other community. For the dastardly falsehoods that are sent broadcast through the world we are indebted to those who support it and that class who hunt among the carrion for what they relish most. It is a sort of balm to their own sense of guilt to blight the fair name of others whose standard they can never hope to reach. We could not expect more from that quarter than they are capable of, any more than we could look for pure water from a corrupt fountain.

## AMONG OTHER CHRISTIAN-LIKE EXHIBITIONS

is the bringing of our women and even little children into their low pools, where they are expected to answer questions that would crimson the cheeks of any, but the hardened and degraded beings, whose particular mission seems to be to seek to defile and bring Zion down to their level; using their influence to lessen the value of those virtues, which we have been taught to prize above rubies, the hope to accomplish their ends, and the final ruin and loss of the bright jewels that have been entrusted to our charge.

The Latter-day Saints, I think have had little cause to feel partial towards either party, Republican or Democrat, but there was something admirable in the steps first taken by President Cleveland—particularly in putting his own hand to the plow, which was both surprising and pleasing to the honest position, and his good example would be well for all to emulate. But when he said "I wish you out there could be like the rest of us," I thought God forbid that I or my offspring should be found among that number who could so far forget themselves and their duty to the God who created them after His own image, as to stoop to become like those, who, though at enmity towards one another can unite to urge upon Congress the passage of laws to separate virtuous, God-fearing husbands and wives, who are bound to each other by the most sacred ties and covenants for time and all eternity. I for one could not afford it—no, not for the sake of gaining the favor of even "fifty millions of people."

It would have been well for President Cleveland could he have understood the rushing tides of prejudice which have swept so many away from the path of their duty, and even down to perdition, because they refused to listen to that monitor within that would have prompted them to first investigate a matter instead of hardening their hearts and closing their ears to the cries of the innocent.

## LIFE IS BUT A SPAN

and there is a great work laid out for this people to accomplish—one in which the whole human family would be interested could they but understand it. But as the majority choose darkness rather than light, it devolves upon the few who are willing to obey the Lord, and labor in the interests of His children without respect to nation or condition—all having an equal claim, until they have forfeited it by committing acts of wickedness, and will not repent and turn from the same, of which we have a fair sample before us to-day.

For these and other good reasons the servants of God prefer living to dying, and liberty to the galling chains of thralldom that are made ready and only waiting the opportunity of being clinched around their necks.

Those who have taken themselves to safer quarters, have done so, not because they were cowards, but by the advice and wishes of their friends, who would be denied the privilege of receiving their counsel and admonitions, were they inside of prison walls.

The memory of that tragedy in which President Taylor was pierced with bullets, some of which still remain in his body, is not calculated to strengthen his confidence, nor that of his people, in a set of despots, who are thirsting for their blood. Many of the old Saints are still living, and can keenly remember those scenes, and among them the broken pledge of Governor Ford, when the martyrs, Joseph and Hyrum, and their brethren were immured in Carthage jail, as well as the insults and

## MURDEROUS TREACHERY

that was practiced on them after they had placed themselves under the car and protection of the Executive, and complied with all the requirements.

Calling men cowards, and stigmatizing their virtuous and honorable wives as lewd women, and their children as bastards, with other offensive and insulting accusations, when fettered inside of a court room, is a sample of the courage and manliness exhibited on the bench, which, to say the least, is anything but becoming an honorable judge.

The provoking coolness and good nature manifested by our brethren, under the abusive language that is inflicted upon them by vicious and unprincipled tyrants, adds to their chagrin and discomfiture, much more than to those that are enduring the lash, and are conscious of their innocence before God. They can rest with that assurance, and that all will be well, no matter where they are—even in a felon's cell. They by secret prayer and praises to Him may accomplish as great things as did Paul and Silas, after they had suffered many stripes and were cast into prison, because they were "the servants of the Most High God," and had taught the way of salvation.

Those who are striving to "do the works of Abraham" need not tremble nor shrink before their inquisitors. If this people are true to their religion, their enemies will find as did Paul after he had persecuted the Saints, that "it is hard for them to kick against the pricks."

But, whoever they be who have failed to do this, and have not acted in accordance with this profession, particularly those who have entered the Celestial order of marriage, with any purpose but the purest, and failed to carry it out in principle as well as practice, will have it to answer for sooner or later before the highest tribunal, as the Lord has declared that they should.

Those who will abuse their privileges and

## BECOME TYRANTS,

or give their companions just cause for complaint, will receive their reward, no matter who they are.

But this does not affect the principle; men and women have their agency, and their record is before them, and if men or women endure suffering for righteousness sake, happy are they.

There is consolation to be derived from this thought, and that such will be acknowledged by the Savior of mankind, who will judge every one by his works. He has said that His Saints were to be "hated of all men," and the "Mormons" have had "all manner of evil spoken against them falsely"—a fact, which of itself would go to prove that they are the true Church of Christ, as there is no other bearing any resemblance to the one which the Savior established in the meridian of time. There are hundreds to-day who believe this, but it requires too great a sacrifice on their part. Our present afflictions are but a drop compared to the

## JUDGMENTS THAT ARE BEFALLING THIS NATION,

and they will increase, because it has suffered the Saints to be robbed, smitten and driven from pillar to post, and the blood of the innocent without a national effort being made toward restitution. In the words of Paul it may be said that the people of this nation "are given over to reprobate minds, being filled with all unrighteousness, fornication, maliciousness, envy, murder, hatred, malignity; haters of God, implacable and unmerciful; who knowing the judgment of God that they which commit such things are worthy of death, not only do the same but have pleasure in them that do them."

There are many of our persecutors who say in their hearts, though the "Mormons" are cried down as ignorant and priest-ridden, etc., we know it to be false. They are empire-founders, and their success is unparalleled; and if we do not stop them they are bound to revolutionize the world. It would be out of reason for us to look for justice from such quarters. For though they know in their hearts that they speak falsely, and that there is no law nor justification for the course they are pursuing they will keep up the howl of treason, and the wife question, or anything that they can hit upon, that is likely to stir up hostility, that they may find an excuse to make war upon us, for the gratification of their own fiendish purposes.

As the patience of the Judge is on the wane in trying to bring or compel people in this free land to deny their religion to purchase freedom, he may just as well forego the needless time and ceremonies of sham courts, with the extra trouble and expense which they are putting the nation to, and have those who are ready to do his bidding ply their muscles and skill, if they have any, to the cutting of timber and the erecting of prisons or gibbets, and not suffer all the prophetic words of Eli to fall to the ground unfulfilled, nor the rich harvest, lying so temptingly before them to slip from their itching hands. We can only die once, then let us die in the harness, struggling for the right and not for the wrong. Let them bring on their racks and thumb-screws, etc., and call upon the polluted and degenerate to come to their assistance, if they are only skillful in making instruments of torture.

Is it sensible, to think, that all people who have been

## NOTED FOR THEIR VIRTUES

and purity of purpose, of whom it has been proven by their opposers, though unintentionally, that sexual sins and all immoralities are condemned instead of

fostered, can afford to become like them, when they openly admit, and the proofs are "strong as holy writ" that they indulge every unhallowed lust without fear or restraint."

No, we say, a thousand times no, imprisonment or death would be sweet compared to such a change, saying nothing of the everlasting punishment that awaits them and the hypocrites and cowards who will fly their colors at the approach of danger, desert their ranks, and prove traitors to their God and His people. There is no stopping place on the road to the Celestial Kingdom. We must go on or go back, as there are no side paths that will take us there. And if our sins can go before us to judgment, we may take heart and say as did Paul. "We glory in tribulation, knowing that tribulation worketh patience, and patience hope; For I reckon that the sufferings of this present time are not worthy to be compared with the glory that shall be revealed to us."

The Latter-day Saints feel like Solomon, that "The souls of the righteous are in the hands of God, and there shall no torment touch them; for though they be punished in the sight of men, yet is their hope full of immortality."

"And having been a little chastised, they shall be greatly rewarded; for God proved them, and found them worthy for Himself."

"As gold in the furnace hath he tried them, and received them as a burnt offering."

"But the ungodly shall be punished according to their own imaginations which have neglected the righteous and forsaken the Lord."

HELEN M. WHITNEY.

## SOME QUERIES AROUSED BY THE PRESENT SITUATION.

ASTORIA, Oregon,  
September 9th, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

I wish, through your valuable paper, to ask one or two questions. Were not courts established for the purpose of maintaining peace and good order in the community? and that where there is any dispute between parties and the parties cannot between themselves settle the question in dispute to their satisfaction and that of all concerned—is it not for this reason that courts were instituted, to settle difficulties, and thereby minister to the peace and happiness of the community? also to oblige all parties making contracts to adhere to those contracts entered into?

Now, suppose I should enter into a contract with a man or woman, or with men or women, can I say to either party, after a while, Here, I don't want to be bound by this contract any longer, and without the consent and against the wishes of the other parties, break my contract with them! What would be the next step? Would not the other party enter a complaint against me in court and I be required to explain the reason why I did not abide by my contract? And would the court settle the dispute to the peace and good order of the community? Or, say I go into court and tell the judge I wish to break my contracts with other parties that I have contracted with, without their consent and against their wishes; would not that be a one-sided question? Could any court liberate me and be justifiable, or by so doing minister to the peace and good order of the community?

Now, some of the Latter-day Saints enter into the most sacred covenants or contracts before God and man, with 2, 3 or more women, to live together as husband and wives through time and eternity; to love, cherish and minister to the comfort of each and all parties. After a while, can the husband the head and front of this sacred contract, without the consent, and against the good wishes of the other contracting parties, ladies and children too at that, flesh of his own flesh and bone of his bone, violate his contracts and be justified by the courts to the peace and good order of all parties, and in the sight of God? Would not that be a one-sided question? And could not either or all of these ladies and children enter a complaint against the husband and father that would take such a course, for a violation of said contracts mutually agreed and entered into? Could the court settle the trouble to the peace and good order of that family or of the community, especially when some of these contracts were entered into before there was any constitutional law to the contrary.

On the other hand, were courts established to force the breaking of sacred contracts against the wishes and consent of both parties, and when the poor deluded women are parties to this contract that there has been so much talk about, to be cast out into a cold world, with helpless children, and sorrow, mourning, tears, anguish of mind and body, and probably death, murder, where otherwise peace, joy, happiness and blessings might have prevailed?

In the breaking of sacred contracts why are not the wives who are parties to said contracts given a chance to explain their views? And if they and their husbands are satisfied with their conditions, who has a right to step in and force them to do that which they revolt at?

"What God hath joined together let no man put asunder."

Listen to the poet:

When through the deep waters I call thee to go,  
The rivers of sorrow shall not thee o'er-flow,

For I will be with thee, thy troubles to bide  
And sanctify to thee thy deepest distress

And furthermore, did not the Government foster these people in the fancy of their organization by appointing the head and front of said people to the highest office in the Territory And did not Orson Pratt and the other preachers plurality of wives in the State years ago without the Government taking any steps to inform the people of their doing any wrong? Did Rev. Dr. Newman years afterwards come to Utah and try to prove in own Tabernacle, from the book that Christians believe in, that plurality was not sanctioned by God, and signally failed, notwithstanding all knowledge of Hebrew?

Fearing that I may be too lengthy will close, praying that all the Lord's may be faithful.

Your brother in the Gospel of Christ,  
E. J. BROWN.

## THE UNJUST JUDGE.

## III CHRONICLES, CHAPTER 8.

In the course of human events, it comes necessary to chronicle the grievances brought upon us by the overbearing of men, who, in the name of the Government they represent, and which empowered them, continue to commit acts which are openly and avowed usurpation of power, and a transgression of constitutional liberty.

When these grievances are daily forth in the papers in truth and so-ness, should they not cause the power that be to lend a listening ear, and dress those wrongs?

Is it not strange, very strange, to the antagonism should be so strong against such a small number of people?

Is it not strange that the iron despotism should be placed upon necks to grind us down in the dust, those sent to enforce the laws of the country, and who should be men of justice and sterling worth?

Would it not indeed be strange if judges who are sent here, especially Zane and Powers, should rule in justice and administer the law according to the spirit and intent thereof?

Let a candid, thinking world investigate the actions on the bench, and rulings in the courts and pronounce a verdict. Where, oh! where in the broad land is the ermine so disgraced? Echo answers where!

Are they the friends or the foes of the people they are sent to for the purpose of executing the laws in the spirit of justice and the enforcement of such wholesome decrees as benefit society, and prove a blessing instead of a curse?

Have they not by their rulings included every man for belief, from sitting as a juror who in their opinion might be an honest man! and who would bring in a verdict in accordance with the testimony?

Would they not rather rejoice every man who is reputed as being husband of more than one wife, set the pen for the full term, while men as Irons and Ames, who commit unblushing crimes, are set at liberty?

Have they not in at least one case permitted this Irons to sit on the bench and convict a moral upright man who he himself is a loathsome being, who he had his deserts would be sitting alongside of "Thorn the best?"

Are they laboring in the interests of morality, where they are breaking quiet God-loving homes, where there is no sin, and if not openly sanctioned at least winking at the sins of men and their kindred class, whose all nations are a stench in the nostrils of all good men?

Are they the friends or foes of the wicked? Let their actions be a when any of these are brought before them?

Are their bowels of compassion moved towards robbers, thieves, other criminals of a base degree, than towards a "Mormon" convicted of unlawful cohabitation? Let records of daily occurrence testify.

I read in the good old book, "I was in a city a judge, which feared God, neither regarded man."

"And there was a widow in that city and she came unto him, saying, Avenge me of mine adversary."

"And he would not for a while, afterward he said within himself, Though I fear not God, nor regard man."

"Yet, because this widow trouble me, I will avenge her, lest by her continual coming she weary me." Behold! with our Judge! he had ear of mercy to hear the cry of the suffering he hath wrought, seeketh for honors of man; he hath the doeth great things under the law! He trieth to wear out Saints! Yea, he saith his mill will grind them to powder.

Now I read in the good book, "whosoever falleth on this rock shall be broken, but on whomsoever the shall fall, they shall be ground to powder." Judge, there is a little discrepancy between the two statements. There is a little story told by some, it is told either by the judge or Lord, and I have always been told that the Lord cannot lie! Verily we the Lord hath not told it! Judge of the contrary notwithstanding.

Yea his wrath waxeth exceeding. Not, for behold some of his grand quilters are men of sense! yea, they are thinking men! yea, they feel they are not entirely tools in the hands of this great judge of judges.