

that Christianity was in danger of being done away by its prevalence, we would rather say, that where Mahometanism prevailed, it taught and established one truth at least, viz., the true and living God, and so far as this went, it did preserve people from worshipping idols. And, had the crescent waved on the tower of London, or on the church of St. Paul, instead of the cross, and had the Mahometan religion been enforced instead of the Roman religion that was enforced for a series of generations, and had tradition riveted what the sword enforced, then that nation and the surrounding nations would have been worshippers of one true God instead of idols; they would have recognised it in theory at least, whether they would have worshipped him in spirit and in truth or not. But now they do not recognise him in theory, for they acknowledge as their god an imaginary being without body, parts, or passions.

Setting aside this one point, they acknowledge and worship innumerable idols, pictures, images, etc., amounting almost to an infinite number, in every place where Christianity has been blended with the civil power, and enforced and established by law under the one great standard called Catholic—imaginary deities that are the works of men's hands, and to which they actually and literally bow down. This may not be the case so fully in these United States where there is a kind of balance of power, and religion, and population, and influences of various kinds acting as checks upon each other; but go to those countries where there are no such checks or balances of power; go to Chili, Spain, or to any other of the states or nations where the Roman cross instead of the crescent, or any other ensign, is the standard, where there are no protestant influences, and protestant dissensions to interfere with the prevailing power, and, as a matter of course, all the subjects of that realm have by law one religion prescribed to them, supported, and enforced by civil authority to the prohibition of all others. In such countries, you can contemplate that religion in all its open and unveiled idolatry; it is there you will see more fully exhibited the practice of worshipping images, of bowing down to dumb idols in the shape of pictures, images, saint worship, angel worship, etc., etc.

I have seen all this with mine eyes, and heard it with mine ears. They will pray to the Virgin Mary, so called, in the form of a painting, which they set up to be prayed to. They also set up other canonized saints in like manner painted on canvas and other substances.

But I will not confine this practice to those countries alone, but in a city of the United States I have beheld a public procession of a vast majority of the populace united in one grand bowery, extending around the public square, and pictures and images of saints were posted in the roads, and an extra bowery was prepared for each of those images: or paintings, decorated in all the pomp and splendor the people could command, and while in procession they would kneel down in the dirty streets and public squares though dressed in the richest silks and satins that money could purchase; persons so richly attired were bowing down on their knees, or prostrating themselves in the dirt and dust at every place where there was an image, and were devoutly offering up prayers.

This is the idolatry that prevails more manifestly in the countries where religion is the law, but it also prevails right in our own country, because there is a liberty of conscience to worship what you please.

Now, if we take Mahometanism during those dark ages, and the corruptions that are so universally prevalent over the earth, and the idolatrous systems of religion, falsely called Christianity, and weigh them in a balance; with all my education in favor of Christian nations and Christian powers, and Christian institutions so called, with all my prejudices of early youth, and habits of thought and reading, my rational faculties would compel me to admit that the Mahometan history and Mahometan doctrine was a standard raised against the most corrupt and abominable idolatry that ever perverted our earth, found in the creeds and worship of Christians, falsely so named.

It might not have been a very pure standard, for the fulness of the gospel, with its priesthood, ordinances, powers and gifts were not there, because that pertained to another branch of Abraham's family.

Ishmael and his descendants were blessed by the Lord, who said, I will make of him a great nation, and kings shall come of him, and he shall have dominion; yet there was one thing not said on the head of Ishmael. It was not said that in him should the elect seed be chosen, who should bear the keys of the eternal priesthood, and salvation, in which all nations should be blessed: this was said on Isaac, the brother of Ishmael, the heir; and it was also said of Jacob and of Abraham; therefore, the blessings that were peculiar, that pertained to the fulness of the gospel, that pertained to the eternal priesthood, that pertained to the coming of Christ, and to the things of his ministry, and to those that were called with the same calling, and in which all nations should be blessed, and redeemed, could not be given to Ishmael and to his descendants, but they belonged by election to the chosen seed to whom the promises were made, viz., the children of Abraham through Isaac, and through Jacob; but the Lord said of Ishmael, I will make of him a great nation, because he is thy son; I will bless him because he is thine, and kings shall come of him. So the Lord seems to have fulfilled more or less, from those early days until the present, the promises that he made to the children of Abraham, that were not particularly designed to hold the keys of the priesthood.

All that a nation could have, without the keys of the everlasting gospel, without the gifts and powers pertaining to those keys, and without the fulness of the gospel, the people of the East

seemed to have been blessed with, so far as the Lord saw fit to bestow upon them blessings during those dark ages.

A great portion of the oriental country has been preserved from the grossest idolatry, wickedness, confusion, bloodshed, murders, cruelty, and errors in religion that have overspread the rest of the world, under the name of Christianity, or mystery of iniquity.

An open defiance of God is no mystery; open drunkenness, and revelling debauchery, and all manner of wickedness and immorality professed by sinners who profess to be nothing else, are no mystery; they do not deceive anybody; but when all manner of wickedness, idolatry, drunkenness and corruption is cloaked under a sacred name, under an outward sanctity and holiness, and under as high and dignified an appellation as Christian, it is a mystery of iniquity; and that has overspread a great portion of the world, and has borne rule until the present day, sometimes under the name of Roman universality, sometimes under the name of the Greek Church, and at other times under various classes and names.

Many that were honest have been deceived by this mystery of iniquity, who have esteemed things to be sacred, which were abominably corrupt; and corrupt superstitions have been revered because of the great names and sanctified professions that were attached to them.

If such institutions actually professed wickedness, they would go for what they are worth; but when a thing professes to be holy, and takes the name of Christ as its founder, and the holy prophets and apostles, to carry out all manner of oppression, all manner of idolatry and idol worship, all manner of priestcraft and kingcraft, and more or less instigating division among nations, and governments, all to carry out bloodshed, cruelty, the rack, the inquisition, and holding of men in bondage, ruling them with a rod of iron, it is a mystery of iniquity calculated to deceive millions. The Apostle John, speaking of this same power, says, "by thy sorceries were all nations deceived!!"

The Mahometan operations, in the hands of the descendants of Abraham and Ishmael, seem to have warded off that deception and mystery of iniquity in some measure, so that it has not entirely overrun their country, morals, and institutions.

Though Mahometan institutions are corrupt enough, and need reforming by the gospel, I am inclined to think upon the whole, leaving out the corruptions of men in high places among them, that they have better morals and better institutions than many Christian nations; and in many localities there have been high standards of morals.

There are no doubt, sections of country, and different localities in Asia, where the people have not walked strictly according to the regulations, and laws given by Mahomet, and observed by his true followers.

But returning to the general corruption that has prevailed nationally, politically, and religiously under the name of Christianity, leaving out Christ and his apostles, I do think there has been no idolatry in the world, under any form or system that could surpass it. It is the mystery of iniquity, the great whore of all the earth. It has brought the whole earth under a lasting curse, having departed from the laws of God, changed the ordinances, and broken the everlasting covenant, in consequence of which the earth is destined to be burned, and few men left.

So far as that one point is concerned, of worshipping the one true God under the name of Mahometanism, together with many moral precepts, and in war only acting on the defensive, I think they have exceeded in righteousness and truthfulness of religion, the idolatrous and corrupt church that has borne the name of Christianity.

There is one thing for which I like Mahometanism better than the present Christianity of the world: if prisoners are taken by them, no matter of what country or religion, and they become lawful captives, doomed to slavery, according to their rules, they will take them from their labor, order them to wash their bodies, and put on clean clothes, give them plenty to eat to refresh them, until they have rested and have full power and vigor of both body and mind to investigate and study the Mahometan religion. If the captives embrace the true religion, as they call it, they are set free from slavery, and permitted to marry among them. But if the captives still reject the religion of the Mahometans, they are made to return to their slavery.

I want to know where the Christian nation is that does this—that will take their lawful captive that may have some other religion, and set him free from servitude, and give him time to wash and clothe himself, and think, and investigate, when both body and mind is enjoying their full power, and if they embrace their religion, then permit them to become citizens.

I will not detain you, I have been more lengthy now than I intended. We would do well to look into the bearings of the history of nations, and the dealings of God with them, as impartially as we can at all times, and cull out all the good there has been, is, or may be, and acknowledge the hand of God in all things, in his dealings with the nations as well as in other things. I acknowledge his hand even in this Gentile reign, whose corruption I have been hinting at. It has had its day, which has been a long and dark one; the nations have groaned under its sway; all nations have felt its withering power; all nations have been deceived by its darkening and mysterious influences; they have groined in ignorance and corruption under the hand of oppression, and tyranny, and wrong, until the head and heart is sick, and they are ready to wake up and seek something better.

I acknowledge the hand of God in it; it was to have its day, that the nations might know fully, and experience the difference between light and darkness, mystery and truth, peace and war,

liberty and oppression; between truth and falsehood, between the rule of Satan, of priestcraft, and kingcraft, and the reign of the kingdom of righteousness; that they might have enough of their own way, and be filled with it until they would be glad to seek the Lord.

That same God has promised his apostles and prophets a day when there should be an end of superstition, and ignorance, and falsehood, of priestcraft, and kingcraft, an end of Gentile polity; that their fulness would come in, and the prophecies of the holy prophets would be fulfilled, and the reign of iniquity would complete its time, and then what? A chaos? No, but an organization, a kingdom, a government, a power which should stand for ever, and no more pass away; and what was that? Why, the God of heaven should set it up, suffice it to say the kingdom of God.

May the Lord bless you all. Amen.

## THE DESERET NEWS.

TRUTH & LIBERTY.



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR.

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY:

Wednesday-----October 10, 1855.

BOOK, JOB, AND CARD PRINTING executed to order.

ADVERTISEMENTS to ensure insertion in the current number, must be handed in previous to 1 o'clock, p. m., on Tuesday.

No EASTERN MAIL, no word of it, up to the 11th inst. at 9 a. m.

### Massacre near Elk Mountains.

On Sunday, Sept. 23rd, a Utah asked James Wiseman Hunt to go with him from the Fort to the herd, a short distance, to see a horse that Hunt had bought of him. They started, the Indian on horseback and Hunt on foot, and when about a mile from the Fort the Indian directed Hunt's attention to the cattle, a little way off from the horses, and while he was turned, shot him in the back, the ball ranging down diagonally and lodging in the thigh.

One of the herdsmen close by started to give the alarm, and the other one drove the herd on to the Fort. In a short time several of the brethren went to bring in Hunt, and when about half way back the Indians fired upon them, wounding Prest. A. N. Billings in the fore finger of the right hand. Three or four of the party then fell a few paces in the rear, and by occasionally firing upon the pursuers they all succeeded in reaching the Fort without further loss or injury. Br. Hunt lingered about 13 hours and died.

Within an hour and a half after their return, some Indians on the bluffs near by told the men in the Fort that they would kill the two who had previously gone out and were then returning, and immediately fired 7 rounds, killing, as they afterwards stated, brs. William Behunin and Edward Edwards, the two who were out.

During the same day the Indians burnt the hay, and turned off the water that supplied the Fort.

At daylight on the next morning the Indians began to gather around in great numbers, and there being no prospect of a speedy reconciliation, the remaining 13 brethren, by the advice of some few Indians who were still friendly, took their horses and started for Manti, leaving their enemies quarrelling over the cattle and the spoils in the Fort.

Soon after crossing Grand river, and a short distance from the Fort, they met an old chief and two of his sons who told them they should have their cattle. After they were some 15 miles on their way the old chief overtook them with 8 cows (the other cattle having been killed or badly wounded) and some beef for their journey, and said he would see to burying the three who were killed.

The company were not molested on their way to Manti, where they arrived Sept. 30.

The above particulars were learned from letters to Gov. Young, dictated by br. A. N. Billings and written by br. John Eager.

Arra-pene, successor to Walker, and chief of the Utahs west of the Wahsatch mountains, said that he had told the whites that the Elk mountain Utahs were bad and had no hearts, but would fight the whites and the Navijoes.

Bishop David Evans' company were at Manti on the 2nd inst., awaiting instructions.

ARRIVALS.—Hon. G. P. Stiles, U. S. Associate Justice in the Third Judicial District, Joseph L. Heywood, U. S. Marshal, and their guard, together with Capt. Judson Stoddard and company arrived from Carson Valley on the 3rd inst. Mr. Chadwick and son, a Mr. Davies, Amasa Potter and a Mr. Morgan came through at the same time.

—Hon. Enoch Reese, Representative from Carson, Bishop N. V. Jones, late President of the mission in Hindostan and the Birman Empire, O. P. Rockwell, Jefferson Edmunds and two other persons arrived from the West on the 4th inst. They left Carson on the 22nd ult., and came through in 13 days.

Mr. Reese reports that the California election resulted in favor of the Know Nothings, and in the election of Neely Johnson, Governor.

The crops in Carson yielded about two thirds of the usual amount.

The approximate determination of our western and south western boundaries leaves nearly all the improvements of that region in Carson county, U. T. Since writing the above we have learned that Mr. T. D. Pitt piloted the company, is familiar with the country between here and Carson, and is ready to act as guide for any persons wishing to travel the nearest route. He is stopping at the Great Salt Lake House on East Temple st.

—On the 7th inst. br. W. S. Godbe came in ahead of a train of 22 wagons which he left on Green river, October 4. All the Indians on the route were very friendly. He met the last missionary company at the 5th crossing of Sweetwater on the 23rd of Sept.; they were all well and getting along finely. From all that he could learn, br. Godbe supposes that all of this year's immigration, including goods' trains, is this side of the South Pass.

THE MORMONS.—In spite of all that has been said against the Salt Lake settlers, it is tolerably evident that they are industrious, prosperous, temperate, contented, and even happy.—[San Francisco Evening Journal of April 7.]

[Quite correct Mr. Journal if you had omitted the word 'tolerably.'—Ed.]

THE WEATHER.—On the mornings of the 4th and 5th inst., thin ice made its appearance on still water, for the first time this fall; since then, night coolish—days still mild, and very pleasant.

CURE FOR SORE EYES.—Take a piece of sugar of lead about the size of an ordinary pea, dissolve it in one teacup full of soft water, and wash the eyes with a sponge or soft rag dipped in the liquid three or four times per day which will effect the cure in two or three days. B. SNOW.

THE CAROB TREE, OR ST. JOHN'S BREAD.—Of all the seeds imported by this office for the purpose of distribution, there is not one more interesting or more valuable than those of the Carob tree. The pods, when matured, contain a few drops of a substance resembling honey. The tree is unquestionably of Eastern origin, and it is supposed to be identical with that upon which St. John fed while in the wilderness. The seeds were procured for the office from the Alicante, in Spain. In Murcia, Valencia, Catalonia, and other provinces in that country, it abounds, and frequently forms, with the olive and other valuable trees, large forests. It was without doubt introduced there by the Moors, who knew its nutritive qualities as a food for their horses, mules and cattle. They probably brought it from Palestine and Egypt, whence it appears to have originated. In these Spanish provinces it now grows naturally, in every kind of ground, not excepting the driest and most barren spots, where the underlying rock shows itself more frequently than the earth. Its roots, twisting in every direction, accommodate themselves to the lightness or depth of the soil; while the trunk, remarkable for its smooth and light colored bark, attains in sheltered positions a colossal size. The branches, furnished with greyish colored leaves, spread majestically around the trunk, and, when loaded with fruit, hang quite to the ground in the form of a tent. The fruit ripens rapidly, and such is its abundance and weight, that it is necessary at once to gather it. The pods are sweet and rich in sugar, and animals feed on them with avidity, and become quite fat and in good condition for work. There are several varieties of the tree. The produce is necessarily in proportion to the attention given. It blooms twice a year—about the first of February and the middle of September—and when well watered, arrives at a considerable height, and sometimes covers a space of one hundred feet in diameter, bearing upwards of a ton of pods. It will doubtless succeed in the Southern and perhaps in the Middle States.—[Patent Office Report.]

[And why not in Utah? Will the Hon. J. M. Bernhisel endeavor to give some of our citizens a chance to try it?—Ed.]

RUSSIAN SOLDIERS.—A correspondent of the National Intelligencer, writing from Paris, says:—The French officers assure me that the engineers in the Russian army are equal to any in Europe. Their army in the Crimea is composed of their finest troops and fight with great skill and desperation. Their riflemen are equal to the "Chasseurs de Vincennes," and are "dead shots," as all admit.

GETTING HIGH.—The Rev. John Pierpont tells how it is done, as follows:

The sturdy oak full many a cup  
Doth hold up to the sky,  
To catch the rain, then drinks it up,  
And thus the oak gets high—  
By having water in its cup;  
And so must you and I.