

Another Work on Mormonism.

In this superficial Christian age, in which so much attention is paid to appearances among men, and in which a high sounding name inducts to the chief seat in the synagogue, and apparently points to more distinguished honors in that realm "beyond the bounds of time and space," the indifference of the Mormons to a good name in the world is a mystery to the public. We presume that no people that ever lived upon the earth was ever more indifferent to the say-so of their opponents than the Latter Day Saints, and, in fact, it may be added that the good name of friends—though naturally enough agreeable—inspires little more than the sense of a grateful obligation. In the Mormons, the Irishman's logic—"Shure, no one knows meself better than meself"—has a proper illustration. They have learned the great lesson that they are the framers of their own destiny, and that facts—not opinions—would be minds of men; and that, by deeds and not words, shall all men be judged and justified or condemned.

Since the organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints in 1830—a little over a quarter of a century, the world has been flooded with publications innumerable, concerning its origin, principles, doctrines, organization and institutions, and these, in every conceivable form, from the gratuitous sheet of the sepulchral Christian Tract Society in the hands of the Aminadab Sleeks, down to the romances of sensation writers who vegetate in New York garrets, and serve up to the greedy public, the cogitations of their own brains, as the every-day passing facts of life in Timbuctoo, the celestial empires of China and Japan, Salt Lake City, Paris, Moscow, Greenland and Siberia. Among the multitude of writers, occasionally a stray waif of talent has managed to make something readable or rather to make a portion of the "something" presented sufficiently interesting to be preserved, but honestly, if asked the question—what that was, we could scarcely, without a good deal of effort, recall it to recollection. The trash that has been published, as a general thing, has either been so ridiculously absurd, or so overlaid and underlaid with venomous bad feeling, that instead of accomplishing anything against the Mormons, it has almost invariably led to its opposite and planted within the bosom of the Saints that feeling of indifference for outside opinion—to which we have alluded—as to the say-so of either the calumniator, the apostate, the self-righteous Pharisee or the mere professional book-maker.

The anti Mormon literature of the past has been from the pens of persons little entitled to consideration—actuated by the most worthless motives, and frequently persons of very small personal calibre, and with quite as little social position in the world at home, to entitle them to any weight or consideration abroad; but, as we might have expected, with the growing proportions of the Church, another class of writers are now claiming the attention of the public, and offering a very different presentation of their views on Mormonism—among the most prominent of whom, at the present time, are Jules Remy and Richard F. Burton, the former, a Frenchman, with a high reputation in the scientific world—"an enthusiast in botanical and religious physiology," and the latter, an Englishman—one of the greatest travelers, linguists and writers of the present day.

We have not seen either Mons. Remy's *Voyage au Pays des Mormons*, or Capt. Burton's *City of the Saints*; but from the reviews of both works which have come under our observation, we conclude that there is, at the present time, a fair chance of the higher classes of both the French and English nations becoming somewhat acquainted with "this singular and remarkable movement." We are not sanguine enough in temperament to believe that either of the writers whom we now notice, will have presented "the truth as it is," wholly, fairly and impartially, as the limits of book boards, an absence of extended personal experience, and the prejudices of education and society are, even with the best intentioned and the most liberal, mighty barriers to the statement of facts in that detail that make them thoroughly reliable. Their acceptance of the Divinity of this great work would be a far stretched anticipation; their rejection of it would be a more natural expectation. With the philosophy of the one or the other, therefore, we take neither notice nor exception; but with their statement of

facts within their own personal observation, we have seen sufficient to place these writers in a very different category from that to which the world at large have consigned the vituperative writers who have beforetime occupied the public attention with "Mormonism."

Some of Capt. Burton's pen and ink sketches of men and places are presented to his readers with a photographic minuteness of detail that stamps him a man of extraordinary capacity, comprehension and observation, and withal a particularly careful writer. We do not expect to find in his new volume every thing we should like to find there, and probably some things there we might like to see differently stated; but we feel assured that Burton must have related many disagreeable facts in "The City of the Saints," for the pens of his reviewers are almost unanimous in handling him roughly as a defender of the Mormons. We have seen nothing in his book to call forth their indignation, beyond the fact that the Captain has dared to represent facts as they were before him, and has been totally indifferent to the calumnies of apostates; and has, probably, said of apostate writers what he once said of Christian missionaries in his African field of exploration: "I knew them to have told—lies and, of course, I said so;" "for that," adds the gallant Captain, "they abused me."

We do not much regret that our limits prevent us, on this occasion, from either making extracts from "The City of the Saints," or yet from the elaborate articles which the work has called forth in the English and Scotch Reviews, and in the American press—as we may on some subsequent occasion be better able to do it justice, and that with more satisfaction to ourselves; meantime, by way of summary, it may be stated that Burton's work maintains its lead in the catalogue of Harper & Brother's spring books, and has called forth very extended notices in the leading papers of London and New York, and, in all probability, the less pretending journals throughout England and America have followed suite and favored the great traveler with their compliments, straight and crooked.

We look for considerable amusement from Burton's work as the criticisms have been rich and racy, and from some of the more pious extremely ludicrous. While their general criticism abounds with compliments to the captain and he is held up as "certainly one of the most remarkable and characteristic men of the present century," "an observant philosopher" with "fair touches of the poet and scholar, a rare union of the profoundest study and the profoundest acuteness"—"an amateur Ulysses" whose "powers of observations" are "keen and well cultivated;" in brief, just such a man of rare bravery who dared to undertake the explorations of the Lake Regions of Central Africa; and again play the pilgrim at the imminent risk of his life, to outwit the dervishes and eunuchs of Mecca and Medina, in order to gratify his curiosity and to extend the world's knowledge of that eastern inner life which no Christian ever before attempted to penetrate; that same remarkable traveler and keen observer is, by a few strokes from the pen of these very pious editors, set down as having been "thoroughly taken in and done for by the Mormons;" "they pulled the wool over his eyes;" "they bamboozled him entirely;" and when forced to acknowledge "The City of the Saints," a "rarely interesting book," it is coupled with a reminder that "at the same time, it cannot be doubted that Burton, the traveler who deceived Mecca dervishes, and Medina eunuchs—the sharpest of inquisitors in all the world, was himself thoroughly deceived and hoodwinked by the wily Saints of Utah."

The absurdity of such a statement is too apparent to need notice, it may not be out of place, however, to state, for the information of those who may take interest in the matter, that Capt. Burton's sojourn here was at a period of our history when "let severely alone" was more apparent everywhere than hoodwinking courtesies. In a very recent letter to a gentleman of this city, the captain referring to his work, says: "I have written of things as I found them. My point de vue is that of a cosmopolitan without creed or country." He has cringed to none, played to none, and, as one of his London reviewers expresses it, "his descriptions are vivid and picturesque, while the opinions and conclusions at which he has arrived, are stated with a bold impartiality which commands the re-

spect, though it may not always have the assent of the readers."

The work is announced as "more readable than a romance," "full of humor, laughter and good sense;" has a diary "exceedingly fresh, full of careless, slap-dash writing;" "reproducing the most salient features of human character, and the persons whom he meets between the Missouri river and the Pacific ocean;" is crowded with valuable topographical details; an "Emigrant's itinerary;" gives Elder Taylor's "pathetic history" of the last days of the Prophet Joseph; Mrs. Pratt's letter on the "Patriarchal institution;" and a vast variety of interesting facts and details of life wherever the captain traveled on "that tour through the great republic;" "as a whole, this book is by far the best account of the City of the Saints and the dwellers therein that has yet issued from the press."

An effort has been made to bring Capt. Burton's book into this market; but the general scarcity of the gold is a great drawback. It is advertised in New York, "with maps and illustrations, 8vo. mustn, \$3 00;" and can be had direct from the publishers, or through Mr. Stenhouse, of this city, who, we believe, has some interest in the extension of the sale of that work.

Western Items.

The mail coaches from the West have arrived occasionally during the past week, bringing, however, no large amount of mail matter. Our latest dates from San Francisco and Sacramento are only to the 15th, and from Carson to the 20th ult.

CALIFORNIA.

The floods and storms that have continuously been experienced on the western coast during the winter had not entirely subsided. The Sacramento was, at latest dates, standing at twenty feet above low water mark, with a slight upward tendency; rain in the valleys and snow on the mountains having fallen all over the eastern and northern part of the State very recently, causing fears of another tremendous flood. The weather, however, was cold and the snow did not melt so rapidly as was apprehended, consequently the overflowing of the streams was deferred, and, might be, measurably averted; but there were large quantities of snow on the high hills, which, if dissolved quickly would cause a flood of great magnitude.

The Sacramento Union estimates the loss of property in California, real and personal, by floods during the winter, at about thirty millions of dollars, or about one fifth of the taxable property in the State, as appears from the assessment rolls of last year.

Soon after the commencement of the thirteenth session of the California legislature a bill was passed which received the sanction of Gov. Stanford, appropriating one hundred thousand dollars of the swamp land fund for the purpose of supplying the members of the legislature and State officers with cash.—Another bill of the same nature, and for the same amount, was subsequently passed which did not meet with Executive favor; of course, the treasury leaches were not pleased with the veto, but the people were.

Petitions in insolvency had been filed in the courts by men formerly wealthy, asking to be discharged from liabilities in consequence of having lost their all by the floods.

The steamer Fanny struck a snag on the Mukelumne river and sunk, having on board two hundred and fifty tons of freight.

The loss of sheep on the Pacific slope during the winter had been ascertained to be greater than had been previously estimated, amounting to about twenty per cent of old sheep and upwards of fifty per cent of lambs.

Beef cattle had become scarce in the vicinity of Sacramento, and were selling at from eight to ten dollars per hundred, and were expected to command a still higher price. Beef was selling at twelve and a half and fifteen cents per pound.

The cattle generally in the northern part of the State are said to be exceedingly poor, and that more have died from cold and starvation than were drowned by the floods.

The peach trees had blossomed in the vicinity of Sacramento, but the frost had been so severe that there was but little prospect of fruit.

The small pox was still raging with much severity in some counties and cities of the State.

Some of the political editorial fraternity in

the golden State manifest great concern about their platforms, and are continually defining their positions, and explaining their views in relation to the war and passing events. All the office seekers in that State have not reached the goal of their ambition.

Two more artillery companies, with a battery of six guns each, have been ordered from Fort Alcatraz to San Pedro. Disturbances in that quarter were feared—seceders are numerous in the lower counties.

There were many vessels at San Francisco ready for sea which could not sail for want of seamen, and there were none to be obtained; the northern and Salmon river mines having greater attractions for the sons of Neptune than the merchant service. The rush thitherward continued unabated.

NEVADA.

Dates from Carson are to the 20th ult. Nothing of note had transpired here of late, excepting the escape of Mayfield on Saturday night, March 15th, from Carson city jail, after an expense had been incurred, in his arrest, detention, trial and conviction, of several thousand dollars. His cell was found locked as usual the next morning with the chain and shackles all safe and right excepting that the rivets fastening them to his leg had been cut or filed off. It was supposed that a duplicate key had been furnished him, or used by a friend.

There was considerable indignation manifested at the way matters had been conducted in relation to the murderer, a supersedeas having been granted in his case by one of the Federal judges, after he had been tried and sentenced to be hung at a certain time by another. The judge who was thus moved, might have been in want of cash, as others have been of the same stamp, notwithstanding the Legislature of Nevada made a liberal appropriation to the Federal judges, graciously sent there by the government, to be paid out of the Territorial Treasury in addition to their salaries. It takes a great deal of cash to supply the wants of such men as the Federal judges for that territory are reported to be.

A reward of one thousand dollars is offered for the arrest and delivery of Mayfield to the authorities of Nevada, by Orion Clemens, Secretary and Acting Governor of the Territory.

The Silver Age says, that the great desideratum there now is the influx of money and travel from California, without which, they cannot turn the richness of their territory to account. If they can get those aids, they will be all right.

It seems a little strange that a country so rich in mineral wealth as Nevada should be so destitute of the "needful."

FARMING OPERATIONS.—Farmers in this county are in a fair way to be late in getting in their wheat and other crops this spring.—There has, as yet, been but little plowing done, comparatively, the ground in most places being too wet. Teams are not generally in very good condition, especially cattle and horses that have been wintered on the ranges, and if the farmers should plant and sow as extensively as they intend, the prospects being that there will be a sufficiency of water to irrigate every acre of tillable land in this valley; the season will certainly be considerably advanced before they get through with their seeding operations.

THAT STORM!—As was predicted last week by the weatherwise, a storm came and continued as long as any prognosticator desired. It commenced snowing early on Friday morning and continued during the day, but not very fast. During the forenoon of Saturday the snow fell briskly much of the time. Sunday was a cold, chilly, cloudy, uncomfortable day. Monday was a snorter, raining, snowing and blowing at short intervals. The mountains, both east and west, were obscured by dark, lowering storm-clouds most of the day—a melancholy aspect for those who did not make provision last fall for a winter of six months duration. Yesterday morning the ground was covered with two or three inches of snow and more falling. Most of it melted in the course of the day, but the weather was far from being pleasant and agreeable last evening.

NO FLOOD YET.—The streams in this county are not so high as they were last week. The weather has been cold for the season and the snows have dissolved but slowly.