



GEORGE Q. CANNON,
EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Wednesday, - - November 22, 1871.

THE Denver *Tribune*, having charged the NEWS with hypocrisy, naturally enough seems anxious to sustain the charge and press it home. Says the *Tribune*—

The DESERET NEWS mistakes, when it quotes us charging "hypocrisy" upon the Mormon people, as we believe them as a class, as honest as any other frugal and industrious people in the world. Our charge of hypocrisy had especial reference to the NEWS, and we can prove before any equitable tribunal that in the case in dispute, the charge was just. Suppose we try as follows;

First, the NEWS knows that all civilized people in the world except the Mormons, condemn Polygamy.

Second, the NEWS will be just enough to admit that what they condemn as criminal, they should make laws to prevent.

Third, the NEWS will admit that when a government makes a law which it believes to be just, it ought to execute the same, if it has the power.

Fourth, the NEWS is not so ignorant but that it will admit these are the facts in the case at issue between the government and the Mormon leaders.

Fifth, Then for the NEWS to declare its innocence of the meaning of the "crusade," and its loss to account for it, etc., is hypocrisy, practiced so as to deceive those who may read what it says, and create sympathy in behalf of the guilty.

For the acknowledgement that, in the *Tribune's* belief, "the Mormon people are as a class as honest as any other frugal and industrious people in the world," we tender our thanks. Now as to the hypocrisy of the NEWS, we have read again and again the questions which the *Tribune* propounds, and by which it hopes to prove that the charge was just, and we fail to perceive any proof in them. In the article which we clipped from the *Tribune* about a week ago it stated, in speaking of the NEWS that: "It [the NEWS] affects to believe that it does not know what the real meaning of the government 'crusade' against the Mormons can be. It affects to believe that there is no reason for the steps which have been taken, except in the hate of the government and its officers."

Because the NEWS, as the *Tribune* worded it, "affected to believe" this, and reiterated this ignorance with "a saint-like air," it said it was not virtuous innocence on our part, but it called such a style of expression "hypocrisy." Will the *Tribune* permit us to correct a part of its statement respecting us? The NEWS, in its editorial articles, has very carefully refrained from charging any of the present proceedings of officials in Utah to "the hate of the Government." The officials here have studiously endeavored to impress people with the idea that, in their crusade against the "Mormons," they had the support of the Government and were carrying out its instructions. To fasten this impression more deeply upon the public mind, they have paraded letters which they said they received from the President and from the departments. Yet, with these professed evidences of complicity on the part of the Government in these measures, we have always been careful to draw a distinction between the Government and the officials here; because we have always been loth to believe the statements which the latter made upon this point. We have thought that probably some individual members of the Government, misled by the common prejudice about Utah and her people, and ignorant of the true state of her affairs, might, in reply to the misrepresentations and

suggestions of officials here, give some encouragement to them to carry out their views, without comprehending the true merits of the case, or realizing the consequences likely to follow such action. If they have received any encouragement from Washington at all, this, in our opinion, is the extent of it.

We have seen plenty of unworthy reasons why the officials here should pursue the course they have; but we fail to see sufficient motives to prompt a government, the members of which have ordinary statesmanlike sagacity, to enter upon such a crusade, or any satisfactory object to be accomplished by it. And that our view of this subject is correct, has received confirmation from at least one of the officials themselves. One of the men most active in the fomenting of trouble here, and who has exhibited a spitefulness and malevolence disgusting alike to "Mormon" and non-"Mormon," himself an official, was interrogated by a prominent supporter of the government, when here, as to whether these proceedings had been prompted by the Government, or had been commenced at its instance and with its sanction. He drew himself up, and, in a pompous manner, replied that they had not. He claimed for himself and confederates the credit of all that had been done. The feelings of contempt which the man's manner and his presumption inspired, may be imagined.

With this explanation we say to the *Tribune* that we can see no reason for the current vexatious court proceedings in Utah, except in the hate of the officials here. If it be hypocrisy in us to make such a statement, we fail to see it.

Now for our contemporary's propositions seriatim:

First, let us inquire who are the "civilized people" in the world? We know that a certain portion of the inhabitants of the earth arrogantly claim to possess all its civilization. With ineffable assurance they place themselves on the pinnacle, and affect to look down upon other nations and peoples and call them semi-civilized, barbarous, etc. The Chinese and Japanese do the same; but shall we, therefore, acknowledge their claims? While we readily acknowledge that our nation, and many others calling themselves civilized *par excellence*, possess many claims to the title, and are wonderfully progressive in some things, we cannot concede that they know everything, or have attained to the acme of perfection. There are many excellent features in the systems of even barbarous nations, which others might find it to their profit to imitate. Certain it is that the "civilized" nations of the earth have distinguished themselves for their aggressions, their rapacity, their trampling upon the rights of others, their oppression and robbery of weaker powers, which had not the brute force to resist them. Even their inventions and discoveries they have used, in many instances, to extend their own and break down their neighbors' power, and this, too, at the cost of countless lives. Much of the so-called civilization of the age has been destructive to the nations with which it has been brought in contact. We have heard about "civilization" until we have grown to look upon much of it as a stupendous sham. When we came here we were glad to escape from it, for every mobber who shot down "Mormon" cattle and hogs, burned "Mormon" houses, destroyed "Mormon" fences and grain, mobbed their owners and expelled them from their lands, professed to possess a more pure and higher civilization than their victims. The savages of the desert made no such pretensions; but they permitted us to build cities, to open farms, to plant gardens and orchards and to live in peace, without coveting the fruits of our labors and robbing us of them, under the pretence that they were more civilized than than we were.

Again we are brought in contact with this vaunted civilization. It comes here in the shape of divided sects, in quarrels and litigation, in liquor and gambling saloons, in fast men and fast women, in vice, extravagance, loafing and loud boasting; and every drunkard, gambler and vile fellow professes to be a representative of civilization, with a mission to pull down what he pleases to call "Mormon barbarism."

We will do the *Tribune* the justice to say, however, that we do not believe it refers to such people or practices as these when it speaks of "civilized people." But suppose we grant its proposition that "all civilized people in the world, except the Mormons, condemn polygamy," what then? We

know of no law in this country, human or divine, which requires men to believe or to practice precisely as their fellows do in matters of religion. The "Mormons" firmly believe that their future hopes of salvation in the presence of God are interwoven with the religion which they have espoused, and that celestial or patriarchal marriage is one of the essential doctrines of that religion. The *Tribune*, and many civilized people, may think this a delusion; but shall the "Mormons," therefore, throw aside their belief? Had the minority always done this in every age, the brightest names, the most heroic characters and the most famous deeds in history would never have been known; even the glorious life of the Son of God would never have been written.

Second. We will be just enough to admit that that which is inherently criminal, people should make laws to prevent. We cannot, however, admit that a system of marriage practiced by the Friend of God, the father of the faithful, the man to whose bosom the faithful Christian expects to go after death, and by the most illustrious men of whom the Bible speaks—a system of marriage, in fact, through which our Redeemer was born, is criminal. Human law may make it statutorily criminal, but no human enactment can make it morally criminal; for it is not inherently criminal.

Third. We willingly admit that when a government makes a law which it believes to be just, it ought to execute the same, if it has the power. And we admit further, that it should be willing to have that law tested by the tribunal whose province it is, so that if it be in contravention of the Constitution, it may be rescinded. But the *Tribune* must know that the court proceedings of Utah are not based upon law enacted to reach patriarchal marriage. We should be guilty of "hypocrisy" to admit that they were.

Fourth. We cannot admit that "those are the facts in the case at issue between the government and the Mormon leaders." As we have stated many times in our columns, the officials here have taken a Territorial statute, framed by Hon. D. H. Wells, who was a member of the Legislative Assembly, and passed by that Assembly, and signed by Governor Brigham Young, then governor of the Territory, and distorted it from its true meaning and intention, and under that statute have indicted those gentlemen for reputed acts of which they are no more guilty now than they were at the time of the passage of the law. These are the facts of the case at issue, not between the Government and the "Mormon" leaders, but between a "ring" of corrupt men and the people of Utah.

Fifth. Therefore the NEWS can declare its innocence of the knowledge of any justifiable reason for this "crusade" against the "Mormons," and consequently any reasonable meaning of it, and the NEWS is prepared to sustain this position before any equitable tribunal, human or divine. Though the NEWS is perfectly at loss to account for the crusade upon any reasonable and justifiable basis, yet it is easy enough to conjecture the meaning of the crusade upon a basis which can not be justified. And this is what we are disposed to maintain.

We have been highly amused, for a number of days past, at the many and conflicting conjectures concerning the whereabouts of President Young. The papers all over the Union appear to have taken suddenly a great interest in his welfare, so great that they manifestly would be pleased to receive a daily bulletin of the exact latitude and longitude of his current habitat, the state of his health, the color and texture of his apparel, the quality and quantity of his larder and cuisine, and a score other et ceteras concerning that distinguished gentleman. From our personal acquaintance with him we have not the slightest hesitation in saying that we firmly believe that whenever he shall become convinced that it is the proper business of those who are so extraordinarily anxious to know his exact whereabouts, to have their curiosity gratified, he will not be backward in communicating to them the knowledge which they so anxiously desire. Meantime it is likely that he will move hence or hither, stay here or there, or travel to and fro, by night or by day, as may seem to him desirable, without asking everybody's leave, and without considering himself under any obligation to announce to all the world, with flourish of trumpets and flash of glistening bayonets and roar of cannon, that he is about to travel a few miles, and

wherefore he is about to make his journey. There are certain legal restrictions resting upon some judicial characters as to the region of country within which they shall reside, but we do not think that President Young is aware that there is any constitutional or legal provision, Federal or Territorial, that defines, or that the ingenuity of any Federal Judge can construe to define, the identical spot or district of country where he is obligated to reside at present. Certain it is that we have never seen any law or part of a law which states that President Young shall reside at Salt Lake City, or Logan, or Provo, or Fillmore, or any other particular city or settlement, nor have we seen any law or part of a law that forbids him from traveling for health, or business, or pleasure, morning, noon, evening, or midnight, if he chooses to do so. Even the hatched up indictments against him, of which every honest man is thoroughly ashamed, have not placed him in that circumscribed condition so far. What therefore is there in his movements to excite so much prurient curiosity may reasonably surpass our comprehension, and possibly be equally a mystery to him. We are sorry for our curious friends, very sorry, but we can do nothing for them, only to remind them that patience is a virtue, and that it is an excellent thing to mind one's own business, a policy which we endeavor to develop in our own action, and can conscientiously recommend to others as being worthy of all acceptance and fully meriting all the commendation which it has received.

THE "Mormons" and "Mormonism," thanks to Judge McKean *et al*, are the exciting topics of the day. Everybody wants to hear about Utah and its people and affairs. It has been very aggravating and annoying to witness the vindictiveness and stupidity of some officials who have been sent here; but when we calmly and dispassionately view their conduct, we are convinced that the "Mormons" have no real cause to regret that they have taken this course. They are advertising Utah and its people, making them more widely known, bringing the "Mormon" question home to thousands of people, and making them familiar with it, who otherwise would never know anything about it. Without such men as these to stir the people up they might sink into apathy; but the Creator, who has a great destiny in store for the "Mormons," will not permit this. He overrules the actions of the "ring" for the accomplishment of His designs. The people of Utah would naturally like to have a quiet and easy time. It is natural, as human nature is constituted, to prefer this. They have been progressing very harmoniously with their friends who have come here, and if not exactly marrying and giving in marriage with them, have at least been making money, and were content to continue to do so, even if "Mormonism" did not get widely advertised. But our friend the Chief Justice comes along and rudely disturbs all these arrangements. He virtually says, "You Mormons and Gentiles are living too peacefully together. This will not answer. I want you Mormons to understand that you are a distinct race, that though American citizens, you have not the ordinary rights of such. There is a line of demarcation between you and other citizens, and you must not forget this."

Having thus delivered himself, he proceeds to action. From his bench in the room over the stable he utters rulings and opinions which make him notorious over the United States. By this he hoped to gain glory; but he is receiving disgrace. He achieves, however, two great results for the "Mormons." First, he stirs them up, directs their attention to the fact that, as Latter-day Saints, there is no affinity between them and the world, and that if they and their religion are preserved, strict union must be maintained; second, he makes their case the prominent topic of the day, arouses men to the consideration of the subject, causes statesmen, editors, newspaper correspondents and lecturers to speak and write upon it. Thus the "Mormon" question is ventilated as it has not been before, at least for many years, and where there is so much agitation of a question as there is of this, the conviction is likely to come to hundreds, and perhaps thousands, of persons that the "Mormons" are a badly-treated and persecuted people. Already several lectures are prepared upon Utah and the "Mormons," to be delivered in eastern cities, during the present winter; and they are likely to be of such a character as to cause