

# EVENING NEWS.

Published Daily, Sunday Excepted,  
AT FOUR O'CLOCK.

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED BY THE  
DESERT NEWS COMPANY.

CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

Saturday, August 17, 1902.

## THE GREAT SIN OF THE AGE.

We publish to-day the full text of a discourse delivered by President John Taylor at Parowan. It is well worthy of perusal by saint and sinner. We desire to call attention more particularly to the latter portion. In it the great crime of adultery is touched upon, and the duty of men in authority in relation to transgressors is clearly pointed out. This is a delicate subject, but one that needs to be ventilated. As President Taylor states, adultery and kindred sins are the great and crying evils of the age. This is "an evil and adulterous generation." Chiefly for this reason destruction will come upon it. The latter-day judgments which are beginning to be poured out are evidences of God's anger, which is kindled against the wicked because of their sexual iniquities. The Almighty requires that the fountains of life shall be kept pure and uncontaminated. But they are polluted at their very source in all nations, and Christendom is more culpable before the Lord than any other portion of humanity, because of the greater light it claims and the understanding it possesses of the theory of virtue. Many sermons, lectures, essays, editorials, plays, stories and commentaries which are published to the world exalt virtue and assail vice. But those who read and approve, and in too many instances those who write and utter those denunciations of virtue and anathemas against vice, set out the reverse of what they advocate and acknowledge to be right. They worship virtue with their lips and violate its rules and spirit in their lives. This will bring the greater damnation. It is claimed by some that sin is the result of ignorance. But it is he who knows the Master's will and does it not that shall be "beaten with many stripes." "Where there is no law there is no transgression." It is the knowledge of the right and the wilful departure therefrom that bring the great condemnation. Light comes into the world and men love darkness rather than light because their deeds are evil. This generation is able to perceive the beauty of virtue, and yet levels in corruption. It talks virtue and practices vice. It is fair on the outside and vile within. It is painted and whitened, and scented and daintily attired, but corruption lurks under the surface. Its pretences only make it the more guilty, for they indicate an understanding of purity, and society is only shocked when secret guilt is exposed. It is not that which is done, but that which is found out that causes a shock to the lip-worshippers at virtue's sacred shrine.

It is a well known fact that the most vehement opponents of "Mormon" plural marriage on alleged moral grounds are usually discovered to be persons of corrupt desire and libidinous life. There are no doubt exceptions, but this has been proven to be the rule. On the other hand it is well known to this community that the men and women who have entered into the practice of plural marriage are, as a rule, people who are and have been careful, strict and righteous in their relations with the opposite sex. Exceptions may be found, of course, to this rule also. But the very nature of the plural family relation in this Church, with its special covenants requiring chastity and holiness, is calculated to promote virtue. For while it gives some men more wives than one, it makes a deadly sin of all sexual intercourse outside of the marriage relation. Men may marry women under strict ecclesiastical regulations, but they must not desecrate them. As in the time of the revelation of the Mosaic law, God has provided means whereby honorable wedlock may be consummated between his sons and daughters, but he has solemnly declared, "Thou shalt not commit adultery."

This term is used in the world to signify the illicit intercourse of persons one at least of whom is married to another. In this Church it is applied to all sexual commerce outside of the marriage relation. If a young unmarried couple thus associate it is adultery. Subsequent marriage does not condone the crime. When a man so far forgets the dignity due to himself and the sanctity which should surround a girl under his protection, as to yield to passion and lead her astray or join with her in a breach of virtue, the only compensation he can make to her is to marry her. But the marriage does not change the sin, nor cover up the wrong from the sight of God. The parties are guilty and are answerable to the Church.

What is the law regarding this matter? If the parties are merely members of the Church and under no special obligation more than their general covenant at baptism to refrain from sin and serve the Lord in all things, they may be forgiven for a first offense on true repentance and confession, agreeing to sin in that way no more. On a repetition of the offense the offender must be cut off from the Church. But this clemency does not extend to those who have been in the House of the Lord, received the holy endowment and made covenants of chastity. If they commit the sin of adultery it is "a sin unto death," and they are much more deeply guilty, than the parties to the case first supposed. The severity of the sin and the extent of its punishment is illustrated in the case of King David, as described in the Bible and in the Revelation on Celestial Marriage. While he was a man after God's own heart, the Lord blessed him and gave him "wives into his bosom." But when he

sinned by taking another man's wife, and added crime to crime in striving to cover up his iniquity, the Lord cursed him by taking his wives away and it is declared in the revelation named, "therefore, he hath fallen from his exaltation and received his portion; and he shall not inherit them [his wives and concubines] out of the world, for I gave them unto another, saith the Lord."

The same David clearly shows the great distinction, which many people who oppose plural marriage do not perceive, between polygamy and adultery. It is written that "no adulterer shall enter the kingdom of heaven." It is also written that many shall come from the east and the west, the north and the south and sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob in the kingdom of God. God gave wives to Abraham and to David. But David took another man's wife, and so, while Abraham is called the "father of the faithful" and "has entered into his exaltation," the rest of the righteous in Paradise being called Abraham's bosom, David hath fallen from his exaltation and lost his glory and dominion in the eternal world.

It should, then, be well understood that the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is opposed to all unchastity. That its laws and discipline are strict in the extreme in relation to sexual sins. That men are required to refrain from licentiousness as well as women. That adultery is ranked next to murder in its catalogue of crimes. That while mercy is shown in its regard to the repentant sinner, it is not properly safeguarded, the fault is not with the Church, but in the delinquent officials who fail to perform a sacred duty.

We have always regarded the pure and holy injunctions of this Church in regard to personal chastity as among its chief beauties and proofs of divinity. And we know that those who have preserved themselves from the sins which grow out of lust conceived in the heart, enjoy in a high degree the Spirit which characterizes this Church, while those who have corrupted themselves and broken their solemn covenants have lost the spirit and gone into darkness, unless through earnest repentance and a great struggle they have fought their way back into the "strait and narrow path."

We commend the remarks of President Taylor to the attention of all in authority in the Priesthood, and suggest to fathers and mothers in Israel that the glory of virtue and the infamy of vice should be impressed upon the young men and maidens of our people in such a way that we may indeed raise up a "holy seed unto the Lord," and that we may truly establish that Zion which is to be "the pure in heart."

**THE UTAH ELECTION.**  
The following article is clipped from the editorial columns of the Omaha Bee, and gives a pretty correct idea of the attitude here. If the term "People's Party" was substituted for "Church" and "Mormons" it would be more exact. But as the "Mormon" people belong to the People's Party, the Bee no doubt thinks the terms synonymous. Still it ought to be understood that the Church does not figure in the politics of this Territory, and that the People's Party, which manages the political affairs of the great majority of the citizens, is an organization in and of itself and distinct entirely from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

Returns from the general election which took place on Monday, in Utah, prove that in spite of the necessity of the Edmunds commission and the disfranchisement of all polygamists, the Church is still politically supreme in the Territory. With a single exception the Mormon ticket was elected in every county by overwhelming majorities. Salt Lake gave four Mormon votes for every Gentile, and the proportion holds good in many of the other voting districts.

If the Edmunds act was intended to wrest the political control of Utah from the hands of the church it has signally failed. The useless and expensive commission which was created to pension off a few chronic office seekers and throw a sop to that portion of the party which desecrated that the Mormon must go, have now performed all the duties required of them under the law. They have put in several months work, their report is ready and they are awaiting the registration of the law and guaranteeing a fair election to the Gentiles. According to their report every polygamist has been disfranchised and the legislative territorial officers who were elected on Monday receive their offices at the hands of law-abiding citizens of Utah and the United States. The commission has done all that was required of them under the law. So far as meeting the demands of the law is concerned, they have accomplished their duty. The Territory is as thoroughly Mormon to-day as it was before the election. The polygamists may have been driven from office, but their places are filled by men who, if not themselves law-breakers, are ardent supporters of the right and duty of plural marriage. The influence of polygamy is as supreme in Utah as it ever was and it cannot be eradicated by commission or suppression by law.

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It is difficult to say what the next step will be toward suppressing Mormonism. The abolition of polygamy is only a peg upon which the Mormon-haters hang their hopes of taking the entire territory out of the hands of the men who have reclaimed it from a desert and made a garden out of a wilderness. No one who knows the intense hatred which exists between the Gentiles and the Mormons believes for a moment that if every polygamist were excluded to-day from Utah that matters would be much helped. The Gentile looks upon the Mormon population as a foreign element, recruited from the slums of Europe, controlled by ignorance and priestcraft, and dangerous to American institutions and the present condition of the Gentile as an intruder in Zion, and an obstacle to the full development of the Church on earth. As Utah is overwhelmingly Mormon, and its remaining population, the Gentile holds a position of vantage from which it will be an exceedingly difficult



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**FOREIGN.**  
LATEST TRANS-ATLANTIC DISPATCHES.

**THE CHOLERA.**  
ALEXANDRIA, 11. — There were twenty-two deaths from cholera here yesterday.

**Not Guilty.**  
Lourain, 11. — The Belgian trial of Canon Bernard on the charge of abstracting valuable papers and so on from the Episcopal Palace at Lourain, was concluded this morning. Canon Bernard was found not guilty.

**London, 11.** — A dispatch from Paris asserts that President Zoullas, in a speech, where he is personally alluding to the claims in that country, which are declared spreading.

**Cabinet Council.**  
Madrid, 11. — An important cabinet council will be held to-night.

**Home Items.**  
"All your own fault" If you remain idle when you can get up better than never—Fiji.

The weakest woman, smallest child, and slightest invalid can use hop bits with safety and great profit. Old men tottering around from Rheumatism, kidney trouble or any weakness will be made strong by using hop bits. My wife and daughter were made healthy by the use of hop bits and I recommend them to my people—Methodist Clergyman.

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—My mother drove the pain away and brought all of her system with hop bits—Ed. "Owego Star."

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From Daly's Theatre, New York.

Wednesday & Thursday Evenings  
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Every Performance under the Personal Direction of Mr. Augustin Daly.

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FRIDAY EVENING, AUG. 17,  
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, THAT J. C. Sandberg has by mutual consent withdrawn from the Co-Op Furniture Company, being bought out by said Company. The latter assumes all liabilities, and incurrences due the Company will be paid as usual at their office.

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