

God-fearing men, who will pay their way, and preach to all who will listen to the Gospel as taught by Christ and His Apostles, and that too without price.

"I would suggest to those who are wishing to learn something concerning us to get their information from those who know us. Facts are stubborn things, and truth will eventually triumph, although bitterly opposed. Jesus, our loving Savior, was just as much the Son of God when the Jews cried 'Away with Him! Crucify Him!' as He was when the people spread olive branches and their garments on the road for Him to ride over. Thus we learn that the truth or falsity of a doctrine does not depend upon its popularity.

"Thanking you in anticipation for the insertion of this answer, I am, &c.,

WM. MATHERS,

A native of the north of Scotland,
15 Constitution Street, Aberdeen."

WILL EXTREMES MEET?

Is a belief in a Supreme Being to be made an offense under the laws of the United States? Is irreligion to become a predominating influence over national legislation? Is the extreme of religious liberty, provided for in the American Constitution, and heretofore enjoyed and boasted of by American citizens, to be joined to its opposite? The present tendency of the current of events seems likely to produce affirmative replies to those interrogatories.

Reduced to their lowest terms, the arguments offered in support of the disfranchisement of all members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, embrace no substantial matter in addition to the fact that the communicants of that Church believe literally in the supremacy of the Almighty, the God whose laws and attributes are set forth in the Christian Scriptures. This belief will be the real reason for their disfranchisement, if Congress shall be so unjust and unwise as to pass the bill for that purpose now pending.

While the French revolution was in progress, and while the revolutionists were in power, law, order and religion were submerged in a deluge of blood and anarchy. The mocking laughter of infidelity, like the scornful glee of a demon in his hour of triumph, was heard throughout torn and bleeding France. To blaspheme Deity was a favorite and popular sport, to hate all kinds and forms of piety was a virtue, and to accomplish the death of a religious teacher, was a praiseworthy act, though not required, provided for nor countenanced by law.

And yet, in all the mad orgies over which the genius of irreligion

held full sway, and while it was the preponderating power in the government of France, a belief in the existence of a Being who exercised supreme control over mundane affairs, and in the necessity of being obedient to His laws, was never by statute made an offense in nor a disadvantage to any person holding such belief. Will the American Congress, in the face of the Constitution which each member of it has sworn to uphold and sacredly maintain, carry an assault upon the foundations of religion further than the irresponsible, faith-hating revolutionists of France dared to, even when their power was absolute?

Undoubtedly there are men who disbelieve in the existence of the God of the Christian Scriptures, who are moral and law-abiding in their private lives; but history gives no account of a prosperous government established in any age or clime by a people who were destitute of a religious faith. It is generally conceded that the impelling motive which exercises the strongest influence in rendering a man obedient to the laws of his country, and in making him a good citizen, is a belief in the necessity of being obedient to the laws of God.

A statement by Herod that he really did not desire to shorten the life of John the Baptist, but only wanted his head that he might present it to a favorite mistress, would not have been more absurd than for the enemies of the "Mormon" people to protest that no interference with the religious liberty of the latter is desired, but that the object sought is merely to give them a choice between political thralldom and adherence to certain fundamental principles of the Christian religion. This is the alternative presented to the "Mormons" in the Struble bill.

GLARING INCONSISTENCY.

THE anti-"Mormon" crusade is conducted comparatively without the aid of facts and logic. This is notoriously the case in relation to the local onslaught. When the methods of the opposition are exposed by unanswerable presentations, the absurdity of the former is placed in so clear a light as to make them appear insipid and ludicrous.

An exceedingly silly attempt is made to break the force of our comments upon the inconsistency of the action of a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce, held on Monday,

May 5th, in suppressing the utterances of Mr. Elias Morris against the political partisanship of the organization.

The incongruity of this blow at free speech in a meeting of the Chamber consisted chiefly of the fact that Mr. Morris was squelched for protesting against the political partisanship of the association. He was crowded down for opposing that which was used as a pretense to prevent him from speaking.

We re-assert that the charge preferred by Mr. Morris against the Chamber was well grounded. More than that, it was positively true.

Let us see whether or not this sweeping proposition can be sustained.

Governor A. L. Thomas is in Washington as the paid agent of the Salt Lake Chamber of Commerce.

In what way is he representing that body—not ostensibly but in fact—by actual work? He has been and is engaged in lobbying for the passage of a bill that will disfranchise the overwhelming majority of the people of Utah, and, of course, a proportion of members of the Chamber of Commerce, whose money he is using for the purpose.

Mr. Thomas' capacity of paid agent renders the Chamber responsible for his work, which it is quite willing to accept of in all saving the outward appearance of doing so.

The latter inference is inevitable, on the sole basis that the Chamber has not repudiated Mr. Thomas' labor and that an attempt to reject it, made by one of the active members of the association, was promptly suppressed as an attempt to introduce partisanship. It is a principle of law that work performed by an agent, when it becomes known to his employers and they fail to promptly repudiate it is credited to them. This is not only a sound legal position, but is in delightful harmony with good common sense.

The attitude of the Chamber and its paid agent sent to Washington is one of farcical hideousness, and no right-thinking man of honor can, in our opinion, view it in any other light, it is so exaggeratively ludicrous and grotesquely untenable.

ISAAC PITMAN, the inventor of phonography, still presides over the Phonetic Institute at Bath, England, where he has resided uninterruptedly for more than half a century. He is over seventy-eight, yet he supervises a correspondence of 30,000 letters a year, besides editing the *Phonetic Journal* and compiling the numerous books which he annually publishes.