

Genesis 8: 21, "the imagination of man's heart is evil from his youth," and in Job 5: 7, "man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward."

2. The Church doctrinal works are those accepted as such by vote of the Church, and these only are binding upon the Church, in the strictest sense. There are other publications whose utterances are in accord with the doctrinal works or books, and which recite facts of history in connection with the promulgation of those doctrines, and by common usage these come to be known as Church works. Thus the term is used in a general sense, as applied to a great number of publications. But if, by any means, there should creep into any of these publications a statement of doctrine contrary to the regularly accepted doctrinal standards of the Church, the latter would not be bound by or responsible for such contradictory or erroneous statement, or for any misstatement of a historical fact.

3. The books named, being accepted as conforming to Church doctrine, and having been made as accurate as possible in historical statements, are commonly regarded as Church works, in the general classification referred to, and are recognized as authority because of such conformity and accuracy. Speaking technically, the actual authority may be said to be not in them, but behind them, in the authoritative source from which they drew and to which they conform.

#### REPORTED MOBBIING.

A couple of days ago a press dispatch to a contemporary stated that some Mormon Elders had been mobbed in Florida. The item did not come in the News press report, and we had no reason to believe there was anything in the story. However, to remove all doubt occasioned by the publication of the dispatch, the First Presidency made telegraphic inquiries, and received the information that nothing of the nature reported had occurred to any Mormon missionaries. In case there should be some who feel an anxiety on the matter, we make this statement to relieve their minds of uneasiness.

#### A PIONEER'S LETTER.

The accompanying letter was handed to the News by a member of the family of the late Elder Thomas Bullock. It is kept as a precious relic of early times in Utah. The letter was written here and sent to England, from where it was afterwards carried back. The paper on which it was written has become a little dingy by age, but the writing is as clear as the day it was penned. It is in the almost copper-plate-like style of Elder Bullock, as easy to read as though it were printed, for Elder Bullock was one of the best penmen that ever came to this valley. He was a member of the first Pioneer band, and his recital of events connected with his early life, the experiences at the exodus from Nauvoo, the manifestation of Divine love when the Lord sent quails to feed the famishing Saints in the Iowa wilderness, the providential

care over the Pioneer company, and the evident joy that filled Elder Bullock at the ability and opportunity to declare the Gospel message, will bring a thrill to the hearts of those who experienced and recall the scenes of Utah's early days, and who knew the writer of the letter as a humble, sincere, devout, diligent follower of the Lord, whose integrity and zeal for the right gained for him the esteem of the people. His letter, written to his cousin at Macclesfield, Cheshire, England, reads:

GREAT SALT LAKE CITY, Deseret,  
North America, Sept. 21, 1850.

Dear Cousin Thomas:—A few days ago my eyes were gladdened with the sight of your letter dated January 18, 1849, which came to hand by one of the companies of emigrating Saints to this place; and I shall be happy to render any favor that lies in my power to your former servant, Mr. Eyres, when I see him, and from whom I hope to learn many particulars about my relatives in Cheshire; for they are many, and I do hope and expect that when you have received this, you will enter into correspondence with me, which may prove of great benefit to the living.

I am happy that your recollections of me have been revived, and I thank you, and my uncle very kindly indeed, for that genealogical sheet which you so kindly sent to me; and if it is not too great a tax on your labors, I should be happier still to see the fullest list that you can possibly make, both of the living and dead, that I can have it posted in my office, and have it as a daily remembrancer that I am the representative of as numerous a family as any other man can boast of. If it is too tedious for you, I feel assured that my dear cousins, your sisters, will cheerfully assist you in this undertaking, and any request for assistance they may make upon me I shall cheerfully endeavor to comply with.

I remember well when the Bullock family alone carried the election for recorder of Macclesfield in 1829, and that was the foundation of my life; for you no doubt heard that in March, 1830, I was taken into the law office of John Cruso, Esq., in Leek, where I continued until 1833, when I entered the excise department and advanced through every grade, and in every place, with satisfaction to my superior officers and all with whom I was connected. I officiated in Herefordshire, Monmouthshire, Worcestershire, Shropshire, then went to Carrickmacross distillery in Monaghan county, Ireland; was then promoted to a ride in the island of Anglesea; from thence I petitioned for removal to some place where I could speak the same language, and they made a new ride near Shurbridge, where I had as pleasant a berth as man could desire, where "Mormonism" (so called, vulgarly) came along. I received an ordination as an Elder and commenced preaching the same principles that caused your "Mr. Al. Eyres, a very diligent servant," to leave your employ, and no doubt he was, and is, much respected by you.

I was respected by all I had to do with, and they felt sorry when the time came for me to leave; but I did leave all, father, brother, uncles, aunts, cousins, houses, possessions and friends, in order to serve the Lord by gathering to where His people lived. In crossing the ocean, I saw the wonders of the deep, know what it is to be shipwrecked, every mast and sail being carried away in a squall; but yet the Lord was with us, and delivered us out of that trial also. I went to Nauvoo, and built a good house, made improvements, and was driven from them by a ruthless mob at the point of the bayonet, with the merciful hint that

they would shoot me down for being a Mormon. I was sick and afflicted night unto death, my wife, my children, my blind mother-in-law all shaking with the fever and ague. In this condition we were carried down to the Mississippi river and put over on the west side without one pound of bread to eat. Although persecuted by men, thank God, I was not forsaken by Him, for lo, as in days of old, the quails came from heaven and flew into our midst, and the little children from six to ten years old caught them alive with their hands; and we were fed by Him who fed Elijah in the wilderness. From that moment all the sick began to improve, until we all got well, praise the Lord.

I was one of the 143 Pioneers who started out, led by President Brigham Young, to search out a place where the Saints could settle down in peace; when we were guided to this valley in the mountains, over mountains and deserts, and through canyons where no living white man had been before. After staying about five weeks and establishing a colony, where we laid the foundation for a fort which enclosed forty-eight acres of ground, broke over one hundred and eighty acres of ground and planted it with all manner of seeds, we then left the valley and returned to our families, having traveled to and fro 2,060 miles with our wagons, all alive, not an accident to anyone, which is unparalleled in modern history. The next spring we resumed our journey with our families, and again traversed the distance without any serious accident. My family arrived on the 22nd of September, 1848, all well. In one week afterwards my wife presented me with a daughter, and on the 25th of July last she gave me a lovely boy.

As I have given you a short sketch of my life, you may ask, and what do you now do for a living? I am sworn in as recorder of lands for Great Salt Lake county, I am clerk of Great Salt Lake county court, I am recorder for the Perpetual Emigrating fund to remove the poor to this place. I am reporter of all public business. I am honored with the office of secretary to the First Presidency, and have the privilege of receiving instructions which tens of thousands of people would be glad to have. I am secretary to the mint in this place, under President Young. More than all, I have been ordained as one of the Seventies, and am empowered to preach the Gospel of life and salvation to my fellow man, which is contained in these few words, belief on Jesus Christ as the Son of God, His birth, crucifixion, resurrection, and ascension into heaven, repentance of all former sins with a determined desire to live the remainder of your lives to His honor and glory, baptism for the remission of your past sins, the laying on of hands of the Elders of Israel for the gift of the Holy Ghost, and to prepare for the second coming of Christ to reign triumphant on the earth.

You may consider this a curious commencement of our epistolary acquaintance, but it is nevertheless true; and may you consider well the truths herein contained and receive light and intelligence hereon, and may peace be and abide on you, and your house, from this time forth.

From your affectionate cousin,  
THOMAS BULLOCK.

Give my love and kind regards to your father, brother and sisters, and I shall anxiously wait for an answer.

#### THE SPECIAL SESSION.

At noon today, March 15th, the Fifty-fifth Congress met in special session at the national capital. It has been convened, in accord with the