

broke out he entered the Confederate army as a lieutenant colonel, being soon promoted and engaging in several battles. His poor health made it imperative that he withdraw and be engaged in civil pursuits to the end of the struggle, when he settled down in a college professorship. He was elected to Congress in 1872, re-elected two years later and then chosen United States senator, taking his seat in March, 1877. He entered President Cleveland's cabinet as secretary of the interior, and in 1888 was appointed to the Supreme bench.

Mr. Lamar in Congress was one of the most effective orators on the Democratic side. He resembled the noted Benjamin H. Hill of Georgia very much in all respects but impetuosity and alertness. It is noteworthy that his greatest forensic battle was with the man who must soon join him in the dark beyond—James G. Blaine. This was in 1874 during the celebrated "Confederate Congress," when the Democrats for the first time since 1860 were in power in the House of Representatives. Mr. Blaine had been speaker of the House for three consecutive terms and no doubt welcomed the opportunities which a place on the floor amid a hostile majority gave him, and he made the most of them. He let no occasion for prodding the "brigadiers" pass by unimproved, and one day became so direct in his references that Lamar "woke up" and "sailed in." It was a battle royal while it lasted, with the honors resting in accordance with the political predilections of those who heard or read of it. Those who knew the Southerner best, however, and who remembered that he was seldom on the alert and never actively so, were surprised at the energy exhibited and the torrent of wrathful yet logical rhetoric which he poured out upon the head of his distinguished antagonist. He was never quite so conspicuous in either house after that, the effort required for such an occasion seeming to draw too heavily upon his failing system. Death was occasioned by heart disease and was quite unexpected. He will be sincerely mourned.

AN EX-EDITOR'S SATURDAY TALK.

In a recent conversation with a gentleman of intelligence and who was a member of the self-styled "Liberal" party, the fact was very forcibly brought home to me that a large amount of ignorance exists among residents of Utah—people who now have lived in the Territory for years—concerning two important points: first, the early history of the settlement of these valleys, and, second, the character of the people who were the first settlers.

This, though it may be surprising to the Latter-day Saints, is not altogether to be wondered at when the sources are known from which nearly all the information they have has been derived. The fabulous stories and descriptions given by writers of books concerning the old settlers of this Territory, their mode of life, the manner in which they were banded together, their treatment of strangers who were not of their religious faith, and the false representations and coloring given of events

which have transpired here, have so filled the minds of many that it has not been possible for them to obtain a true understanding of the past conditions of Utah. There is scarcely an occurrence of importance of the past that is not viewed in a false light, especially if it be anything that will appear to the disadvantage of the Latter-day Saints.

To add to the difficulty honest newcomers have had in learning the true history of affairs of early days, there has been a certain class in the Territory who have, to a certain extent, secured the public ear, whose constant effort has been to perpetuate these misconceptions and false views, and they have done all in their power to distort facts, falsify history and give the Latter-day Saints an odious obaracter. These people have thought it was to their interest, and necessary to the accomplishment of their schemes, that the "Mormons" should appear to the world in a bad light, and they have been determined that through their channel only should the public get its impressions concerning the people and the affairs of Utah.

To a certain extent this policy has succeeded. Gross misconceptions and ridiculous ignorance prevail concerning the past, and relying upon this, the class to which I have referred point to the Utah of today and claim the credit of having redeemed it from the barbarism of former days and caused it to enter upon its present pathway of progress.

Thinking, observing men, however, are gradually awakening to the fact that there has been a persistent attempt to dupe the public upon these matters. The process of awakening may be somewhat slow, but it is steady and sure. It is illustrated in the case of the gentleman whom I have mentioned. He comes here, as he said, stuffed with the trash contained in anti-Mormon books which had been written to sell. He looked at everything through the spectacles which these books and other writings had furnished him. But after a time, becoming acquainted with the "Mormons," he perceived they were not such people as had been represented. He found them truthful and honest, industrious and temperate, not disposed to take advantage of or ill-treat the stranger, courteous and obliging. So far, then, as these people were concerned he felt compelled, as an honest man, to revise his views. At least he had concluded that all the "Mormons" were not as bad as his reading had led him to conclude they were. When a man gets that far a great point is gained for the Latter-day Saints, for doubt concerning such general and sweeping allegations as are made about their home life and demeanor and treatment of strangers unsettles the foundation upon which the whole structure of lies respecting them is based, and it is likely, ere long, to tumble to the ground.

How many there are among the new settlers of the Territory who are being thus enlightened it would be difficult, perhaps, to tell. But is it too much to expect that there are very many? There are doubtless hundreds of well-meaning, honest people who would not knowingly do injustice to a single in-

dividual, much less to an entire community, who are casting their fortunes among us. These people have eyes and brains. They must see and think. They cannot always remain blinded by prejudice with their minds closed to reason and to truth. Personally, therefore, I think I am not too sanguine in anticipating excellent results from this ingathering of that which has been called "the outside element" into Utah. With this ingathering come many evils that all of us would exclude if we could. But we are in the world yet, and we cannot very well escape from the intrusion of its vices. We can, however, fortify ourselves against them and not become their prey. In doing this we can obtain another test of the strength and power of our religion.

The qualities which are acknowledged to belong to the Latter-day Saints by the majority of those who know them are not newly developed characteristics. No organization, political, anti-Mormon or other party, can truthfully lay claim to having forced them into being. They have always had existence and been dominant among the people.

Speaking generally, the Latter-day Saints have always been an honest people. When the valley of Salt Lake was first settled no locks were needed for houses, every door was unfastened. Though destitution was general, food and clothing and other articles, precious because of their scarcity, were safe in cloth-covered wagons and in tents. For years afterwards travelers could go the length of the Territory, and leave their goods and valuables exposed without losing anything by theft, and this when there were many much-needed and much-coveted articles in sight.

The Latter-day Saints have always been a punctual people in meeting their obligations. However careless they may have been in some instances in meeting their engagements with their brethren, their willingness and strictness in paying their debts to others have become proverbial, and merchants say that there is a smaller percentage of bad debts among the "Mormons" than among any other people with whom they have had dealings.

They have always been an industrious people. Beggary and pauperism have ever been discouraged.

They have always been a temperate people. Their religion teaches them to abstain from narcotics and intoxicants and to be abstemious in diet.

They have never been a litigious or quarrelsome people.

They have never been licentious. They have been taught to view woman's virtue as next in value to human life.

The shedding of man's blood has ever been looked upon by the Latter-day Saints as a most horrible crime. Their Elders have been taught that they must not administer the ordinance of baptism to any one who had been guilty of this foul sin. They have, therefore, been a peaceful people, holding the life of their fellow man as being so sacred that rather than incur the risk of taking it, even in self-defense, they have suffered grievous wrongs and outrages rather than resist.

Having, then, these virtues—virtues not of new growth, but theirs from the