

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE SITUATION.

Who are to be Pitted?

Editor Deseret News:

The present extraordinary epoch that is being written on the pages of the history of the American Republic in the unconstitutional dealings with the Latter-day Saints causes many peculiar thoughts and reflections. The situation the Saints are placed in to-day in consequence of the laws passed against the practice of a sacrament of the Church of Christ, to which they belong, and the hardship it works, desolating their happy homes, calls forth a great deal of sympathy from the gentlemen and gentle women in the world who realize what a reprehensible course is being taken by the unfortunate government who has descended from the high pinnacle and glory of religious tolerance to the base level of the tyrannical despotisms which have made the pages of history hideous and brought upon themselves everlasting shame by their wicked and heartless persecution of the weak and innocent whose sole offense was that they loved God and sought to keep His commandments, and who would not worship Satan or bow to the merciless decrees of anti-Christ. The Latter-day Saints are a small people in numbers, but they are a powerful people. There are no people that command the attention of all nations like this comparative handful of population. The reason is, they have the authority of God. Two simple, unlearned stripplings clothed with the power of the Priesthood and sent to any city, town or hamlet in the world, to officiate in the name of Jesus Christ, call the people to repentance, and warn them of judgments to come, will excite more attention, raise more commotion, and have to meet with greater opposition than men of any other denomination. Our Elders are capable of earning their own living in any land, frequently leaving homes of ease and comfort willingly, to preach the Gospel and go to the humblest of all people, who will receive them, no matter how humble, and sharing their frugal fare, to teach them the precious principles that lead to life eternal. They do so without money or price, bearing the message of the only way to be saved—the strait and narrow way that leads to eternal lives—the one God and Father of all, one Lord, one faith, and one baptism.

This is the head and front of their offending. They meet, as in days of yore, the contumacious ancient saints had to endure; mobbings, revilings, persecutions, imprisonments and deaths; then the gentle hearted ones, whose voice is rarely heard above the hoarse clamor of the liar, defamer and false teacher, pity the Latter-day Saints. Let us examine the facts of the case and ascertain who should be pitted. Joseph Smith, the martyr, was a true prophet and servant of the Living God. All that has ever been said or published against this just man, all the inventions of man to prove him otherwise have failed. The world have not been able to prove that he was a false prophet, or that he was not sent of God; whilst on the other hand no men or women who have honestly sought to know of God whether he was a true prophet or not, and who received the Gospel in an honest heart, but have received a testimony that he was a true prophet whom God had raised up to usher in the dispensation of the fulness of times. No honest, God-fearing person, who desired the kingdom of God and who loved the truth, has ever been disappointed in obeying the Gospel taught by the Latter-day Saints, whose headquarters are in Utah. Go where you will into the fellowship meetings of the Saints in any part of the world where they are held and you will hear the Saints testify they know Joseph Smith was a true Prophet sent of God, having received a living testimony from the Eternal Father, as also the signs following the believer. They realize the truth of the Savior's doctrine "Whoso will do the will of the Father shall know of the doctrine." Now, who is to be pitted, the man who receives the Gospel and inherits this great boon of knowledge or the man who rejects it, preferring to walk in darkness? Is it a pity that he has embraced an unpopular doctrine? I think not; whenever was the doctrine of Christ popular? When were true Prophets popular? When Joseph Smith received his first vision, the Savior told him all the sects were wrong. Has anyone been able to disprove this? If there was one system on earth, approved of God, by which His children could be saved, there was no need of Joseph Smith, or the restoration of a gospel that had not been lost, but where on earth is anything like the church that Christ organized, under the direction of the Father, with Apostles, Prophets, Seventies, etc., with the doctrines of baptism by immersion and the laying on of hands for the reception of the Holy Ghost, the signs following the believer. It could not be found until God restored it. We were gravely told that "all these things are done away with." Where is the revelation commanding them to be done away with? It cannot be found. No further proof is necessary; the laws have been transgressed, the ordinances have been changed and the everlasting covenant has been broken, the fountain of living waters has been forsaken and newed them out cisterns, broken cisterns, that can hold no water. The

Gospel of God was rejected, His Apostles and saints were slain, and in consequence of the wholesale shedding of innocent blood and the wickedness of the people who preferred the mummery of priestcraft to priesthood and the simplicity of the Gospel, the Priesthood was taken from the earth, and the displeasure of God was manifested in the destruction of Jerusalem, the overthrow of the Roman Empire, and the desolation that followed those who were the murderers in heart, and who had rejected the Gospel, meeting their just reward.

Joseph Smith and Oliver Cowdery both declared that John the Baptist came to them and ordained them to the Aaronic Priesthood. This is recorded upon the pages of the history of the Latter-day Saints, and it is true. He was necessary, for John held these keys of Priesthood. He was the forerunner of Christ, not only in His first coming, but in His second advent. They were also visited by Peter, James and John, who had received their apostleship from the Father through Jesus Christ, under whose hands they were ordained, and they laid their hands upon the heads of Joseph and Oliver and ordained them Apostles.

These facts have been spread broadcast throughout the world. The Gospel could not have been restored without them as every student of theology can easily prove and, it is only a matter of time when all will know it. Do you not think the inhabitants in the days of Noah knew he was a true Prophet when their rejection of his message landed them in the pit, or those that reject Christ and His Apostles did not meet with a similar experience? So also to-day. The testimony of the Latter-day Saints is true and we know it. Those who reject our testimony do it to their own hurt and are far more to be pitted than the Saints who are opposed by anti-Christ and are realizing the truth of the promise of our adored Master. "In me you shall have peace, but in the world tribulation." Ask the sons of God who are persecuted by the Government of the United States and who are in bonds, imprisonment or exile, if they do not enjoy peace? Ask their beloved wives and children, whom they would lay down their lives for, if they do not enjoy peace, notwithstanding they have been ruthlessly robbed of their means, separated from the society and protection of their loved husbands and fathers, and they will answer you, "Yes; I enjoy a peace unspeakable, and the noble integrity of our beloved husbands and fathers has made them more dear to us than ever, and we will try by our devotion to God and the principles of righteousness to be more worthy of them." They are having an experience showing them that there is a wide difference between the religion they enjoy and the religion of the world. That the Christian religion is not a vindictive, persecuting one. It is anti-Christ that bears these repulsive marks. Our glorious religion is "peace on earth and good will toward men," because it is of God. Now, my friends, who should be pitted, those who receive the Gospel or those who reject it? Would it ever have been thought in this enlightened civilized age that such a murderous spirit should exist against the Saints as to suggest wholesale slaughter against a people who purely love, who really enjoy the happiness of reciprocated affection, and who take the greatest delight in learning the ways of God and striving to walk in His paths? What can one possibly think of our opponents but that they are indeed to be pitted? It is the truth we have and the authority we hold that makes us unpopular. We do not make merchandise of the souls of men. The priests and lawyers don't want us because their craft is in danger.

By the by, what good have the lawyers been to us? Have they been able to stay this persecution or aided in any way to secure to us our rights? Have not the priests, lawyers and press done all in their power to have laws passed to deny us our constitutional rights? Have they not done all in their power, by the most wicked and Satanic misrepresentations to crush us into the earth and deny us the right to our pursuit of happiness, to our worship of God and the keeping of His commandments? Have they not tried to raise the ire of all people against us by their cowardly, brazen-faced falsehoods, to make us as unpopular as possible, and induce the ignorant to believe they were doing God a service in persecuting us? Are the Saints alone to be pitted because they are the present sufferers from the results of this awful wickedness? No! a thousand times No! Their traducers, their persecutors, who lend themselves, Judas like to betray Christ for fifty pieces of silver and upwards in the person of his disciples, or who prostitute their manhood to oppress the weak and defenceless, because there is money in it. This is the class who should be pitted. How will such stand before the awful bar of God to give an answer for the deeds done in the body, with a clear remembrance of all they have done, and a realizing sense of the terrible record they have made and to know how cheap they sold themselves to infamy? All we have is our character, our native worth. We love righteousness or we hate it. This is manifested by our works, and our character is known by the deeds done in the body in which we made our everlasting record.

When we take into consideration the history of the Latter-day Saints and the heartless manner in which the government has treated them from the days when it was cowardly said,

"Your cause is just but we can do nothing for you," to the present, and its endorsement by priests, editors, lawyers and people, although the Saints have had to wade through affliction, tribulation, persecution, and death, their persecutors and those who have aided to bring about their troubles have far more need of pity than the Saints. The course pursued by the Saints in their integrity to God and the principles of righteousness will lead them to life everlasting in the presence of God, whilst on the other hand the course pursued by their persecutors and all who reject the Gospel they have received will land in that awful pit for which they have labored and will have to endure the everlasting shame and contempt they bring upon themselves. The Lord told Saul when he was engaged in persecuting the Saints, "I am Jesus whom thou persecutest. It is hard for thee to kick against the pricks." Surely those who fight against God and His ways are far more to be pitted than the "redeemed of the Lord," who are able by the opposition to prove to all men, as they do their devotion to God, the Constitution, and the glorious everlasting principles that will stand for ever. God will bless and sustain His Saints. He will pour contempt upon their enemies, for they are His enemies and surely most to be pitted.

UNDEL.

A TRIP SOUTHWARD.

Conditions and Appearances.

FAYETTE, Sanpete County, Utah, July 16, 1886.

On Tuesday (yesterday) morning, we left Salt Lake on the southbound Utah Central passenger train. The weather being delightful, the ride through the fertile counties of Salt Lake and Utah, with the fruits of industry visible on every hand, was an enjoyable one. At Santaquin, when approaching the Juab County line, there is a change in the general appearance of the surrounding country, which begins in places to assume an almost forbidding aspect, and bears evident marks of a scarcity of water. The town has lost its busy appearance of some years since, when it was the chief point of supply to the Tintic mining district, about 25 miles westward. The building of the Salt Lake and Western Railway to Tintic from Lehi Junction has changed most of the trade to the latter place. In the dry farming districts south of Santaquin the lack of water has been a serious drawback this season, whole fields of lucern in some places having been literally parched by the heat and drought. York, a few miles farther on, and once the terminus of the Utah Central Railway, where the rush of business was by no means inconsiderable, has almost disappeared and is now seldom heard of. Two or three houses, surrounded by small patches of lucern, are all that marks the place of the once lively railway station. Juab station is now the chief point of business in Juab County for the railway, shippers coming to that place with their goods from various directions. Travelers for places farther south change cars there, and continue their journey in coaches vastly different to the elegant Pullman palaces that run into Salt Lake. Large quantities of stock are shipped at Juab for Wyoming and other places. Mr. Isaac Jennings is now looking for a suitable range for his herds, and early in August will load his cars to be moved to the new grounds. About a mile east of the station is a ranch which is being successfully conducted by Mr. Charles S. Tinney, formerly of Salt Lake, and later a merchant at Kaysville, Davis County.

FROM RAILROAD TO TEAM TRAVEL.

The gentleman who met us at Juab had traveled from Richfield, Sevier County, and had provided a comfortable covered vehicle for our convenience. We were truly thankful for his thoughtfulness, affording shelter from the scorching rays of a July sun. The start was made for Fayette, 22 miles distant, most of the road being through a long, narrow valley, whose altitude is about 1500 feet above that of Salt Lake. A low range of hills hemmed in the valley on either side, that on the east being known as Cedar Ridge, from the growth of scrub cedar which adorns the top. The hills are mostly of a reddish brown sand, with here and there a huge rock whose rugged crest rises to a considerable height. For about 18 miles there is no water along the road, though green spots along the foothills mark a few springs that have broken out during the past four or five years, and are still on the increase. The surroundings are, however, as dry as one can readily imagine. A growth of greasewood contests the right to the soil with a dwarf white sage, the patches of which, from a short distance, look like spots of bare ground. There are but few signs of life, excepting jack rabbits, ground squirrels, porcupine, snakes and lizards, and occasionally a bird. A view of three crows by the road side disputing over the right to a hen's egg called to mind the famous "Three Black Crows," and

AN INCIDENT

that occurred in my companion's experience when traveling through Germany and Switzerland. He was riding one day to Augsburg, and had not heard his native tongue spoken for several weeks. A number of exhibitors were returning from the Vienna exposition of 1873,

and as my companion was brooding over his touchiness his attention was suddenly attracted by the singing of "Three Black Crows" in the next compartment. Going in he discovered that the singers were Americans who were rejoicing on their return home after a six months' stay in Vienna.

A SEVERE ACCIDENT.

From the valley, and distant about 75 miles, can be plainly seen the towering peak which has been given the euphonious name of "Molly's Nipple," which rises between Sanpete and Castle valleys. Early in the afternoon we reached the Sevier River, near where it divides Juab and Millard counties. This stream is perhaps the most sluggish and crooked river in the Territory, and in its winds often flows three miles to go one. A glimpse of its waters called to mind a drowning that had occurred about a week ago, the account of which as given here differs somewhat from that already published:

A ten-year old boy, Frank Isabel, with another smaller boy, was crossing a log over the river just above what is known as the "Neversweet Dam," and stooped down to touch the water with his hand. The little fellow lost his balance and sank in the dark waters. Twice he rose and called for help, which his companion was too small to give, and was washed over the dam to his death. The other boy carried the terrible news to Mr. Isabel, and the body was recovered thirty-six hours afterward, and laid to rest in the grave.

A TRAGEDY OF 1865.

As we entered Sanpete County and approached Fayette, the green pastures fenced in indicated human habitations, and in a nook in the mountains we found the thrifty village. The place is noticeable by the absence of trees, of which there are but few. More, however, are being planted out, and will greatly improve the appearance of the place. But little farming goes on here, the chief industry being stock-raising. There is a nice rock meeting-house, and a number of pretty and substantial dwellings. About a mile east of the town is the place where, during the Indian war in 1865, John Warren was killed by the savages. He had been left on guard, and while replenishing the camp-fire was approached by three Indians, one of whom shot him through the head, killing him instantly. The murderous redskins escaped. West of Fayette, and on the opposite side of the narrow valley, through the center of which the Sevier flows, is the settlement of Dover. Fayette was formerly called Warm Creek, and I think most appropriately. The large spring which supplies water both for culinary and irrigating purposes, comes out from under the mountain, and is quite warm. It is taken and allowed to cool for drinking, but even then is far from cool and pleasant to those unaccustomed to it. There are a few wells in the place, but most of them have brackish water. One, however, is cool, but has a pungent mineral taste. When the Warm Creek water is cooled with ice, or otherwise reduced to a proper temperature, it is quite pleasant to the taste.

This morning we start for Richfield.

OFFICIAL DOINGS DOWN SOUTH.

Editor Deseret News:

The honest-hearted, free American, loyal citizens, Uncle Sam's best boys or Gentiles have the reins of political government in this county in their own hands. A short time ago they made a clean sweep of several thousands of dollars by robbing the county treasury. So it is supposed they have enough money to sport with this summer, without bothering the polygamists. They will soon be out of pocket money, and our Territorial, county and school tax will soon be due. It amounts to three dollars on the hundred. The treasury will soon have its thousands again.

Charley Canear is supposed to have been murdered, and as he is thought to be dead, Uncle Sam's pets have seen fit to lay the whole of the blame upon him. He was one that was said to be interested in the theft, and if he is dead, let's all unite in laying the blame upon him. I don't suppose it would be right to blame any living person for such an offense. I guess the fact of the matter is this: If Charley is murdered it is because dead men tell no tales.

I see by the News that the self-styled "American gentlemen" of Utah are drifting heavily toward the treasuries. Well, probably they will get there. If they do they will glut themselves with the hard earnings of the Latter-day Saints and will tax them heavily.

Utah Territory is filled with good homes and abounds with fine orchards, farms and vineyards made by the industrious Latter-day Saints, and also hundreds of artesian wells sending forth their fine waters. If Uncle Sam's pets succeed in getting all the money, don't you think that they will want the balance?

We are still on the improve as a people, are gently climbing over the rugged cliffs of Nature's economy, and will be on the improve and will stand in favor of the Almighty, if our treasures are robbed.

LIBERTY.

Apache County, Arizona, July 6, 1886.

We hear little or nothing lately about the progress of the late mining boom in Cache Valley.

A YOUNG SETTLEMENT.

PINE CREEK, Yavapia Co., Arizona, June 27th, 1886.

Editor Deseret News:

This settlement consists of about 15 families, composed of Saints with the exception of two families. It is situated in a small valley or basin, covered with large pine trees and surrounded on all sides by steep and rugged mountains. We have a very lively Sunday School. It is thriving nicely and the leaders are very energetic and trying to do all they can for the development of the minds of the young. We have a Y. M. and Y. W. Association organized, but the young men's is dormant at present. The young ladies' is still in progress. Chances for crops are very slim, the season being very dry. We have had no rain since April. Very little small grain has been raised here as yet.

The people generally are in poor circumstances. Money is very scarce; have had to go to Phoenix for flour and provisions, a distance of 125 miles, over very rough roads, but Brother E. B. Nelson, formerly of Beaver City, Utah, has got a small flour mill very near completed, which, if it proves a success, will be of great benefit to the country. Flour is worth \$8 per 100 lbs.; wheat \$4 to \$4.50 per 100 lbs.; Potatoes 2 to 3 cts.; corn 3 1/2 to 4 cts., and all other produce in proportion. The Saints generally are trying to serve God, but they are not sufficiently united to lay full claim upon all the blessings the Father of Light has promised unto us.

R. H. S. RUSBY.

THE GODDESS OF LIBERTY IN MOURNING.

Speech by a Young Lady.

MEADOW, Millard, Utah, July 6th, 1886.

Editor Deseret News:

General good health prevails here. Grain crops and fruit moderate. Yesterday we celebrated the Glorious Fourth as good and loyal citizens should. As one part of our programme I send you the following, delivered by Miss Emma Jane Nield. Should you deem it worthy a place in the NEWS, use it.

Yours respectfully,
JOHN NIELD.

SPEECH OF THE GODDESS OF LIBERTY.

Ladies and Gentlemen: My first acknowledgment must be to these kind young friends who have honored me with this important position, and desire to assure them that I appreciate highly this evidence of their friendship and goodwill, and I trust that I may have the opportunity of proving my gratitude by laboring for their advancement. I represent to-day one of the fundamental principles and most glorious truths ever established on earth. Liberty is the chief corner stone upon which every nation rests, and when once assailed or destroyed, the whole fabric will totter and fall.

Liberty! The word sounds as melodious music in the ears of an oppressed people. Liberty! eagerly cried the Israelites slaves in Egypt, and a Moses came forth to deliver them. Liberty! cried the Jewish slaves in Babylon, and a Nebuchadnezzar arose to lead them back to their country. Liberty! exclaimed the oppressed Jews, and the tyrant Herod was dethroned. Liberty! pleaded the soul-bound Catholics of Germany, and a Luther boldly defied the popish power and broke the bonds of superstition. Liberty! the overtaxed and downtrodden Protestants of England, a Cromwell arose and the tyrant king was beheaded.

Liberty! glorious liberty! for three rivers of blood have flowed and millions of lives have been sacrificed at thy shrine.

One hundred and ten years ago to-day a nation was born and the Goddess of Liberty was enthroned. The banner of Freedom was unfurled in response to the appeal of patriotic men whose hearts ached at the sufferings of the people under the galling yoke of despotism.

Patrick Henry echoed the sentiments of the colonists when he exclaimed, "Give me liberty or give me death!" The memorable document was signed.

The aged veteran in the steeple bared his arm and caused the ringing peals of the bell to speak to an excited and enthusiastic multitude the death-knell of oppression and the grand truth that the people were free.

We commemorate to-day that glorious event. To-day from the surging Atlantic to the placid Pacific, from the snow-capped hills of the Canadas to the orange groves of the Floridas, the eloquence of America's orators is recounting the Republic's glorious achievements and her future destiny.

But, here in Utah, the Goddess of Liberty bows her head with humility and shame for alas! her fair name is sullied and the flag of freedom trails in the dust. Religious liberty has been taken from her people and while the voices of America's freemen are heard from the penitentiaries we mourn for our Nation's weal and our National honor.

Columbia! thy prestige is departing, thy sun is slowly setting. Martyred Standing, Perry and Gibbs witness to thy degradation.

Imprisoned Snow, Clawson and others witness to thy dishonor. The departed glory of Babylon,