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For the healthy growth of "Mormonism," and the proper development of its disciples, it seems necessary that there should be an occasional interruption of peaceful progress and a threatening prospect of serious difficulties. This, at least, has been the experience of the past. For the Latter-day Saints to enjoy an uninterrupted career of peaceful prosperity for several years would be very remarkable, and in many minds would have the effect to excite grave apprehensions. But we are happy to say that, thus far, this has never been their lot. Scarcely a year has passed over their heads since A.D. 1830 without their either being threatened with or experiencing serious trouble. In this respect their experience has been unlike that of any other community or religious body on the continent, and the effect has been to make them dissimilar in many features of their character from any other people. The adverse circumstances with which they have been surrounded have developed a faith in God which is exceedingly necessary, they have also taught them self-reliance and independence. We know of no people who recognize the hand and overruling providence of God in all the affairs of life to the same extent as the Latter-day Saints, neither have we been thrown in contact with a people so independent or self-reliant as they.

Uninterrupted prosperity, with the present experience of the people, would be a condition of affairs to be dreaded. To have the world fraternized with them, to recognize them as a people of the right kind, to bestow favors upon them, would be a great misfortune, and would, we fear, be attended with serious results. But when the Latter-day Saints are persecuted, when attacks are made upon their faith and liberties and exertions are put forth to destroy them as a people, their energies are aroused, their enthusiasm is quickened and their love for and devotion to their religion, which in times of prosperity may become lukewarm and weak, are revived and fanned into an active flame. These Court proceedings, therefore, are not the unmitigated evil which their authors intended them to be to the Latter-day Saints. They have been productive, thus far, of a great amount of good. Many of the people were being lulled into the sleep of forgetfulness concerning their religion and its obligations and duties. Circumstances were peaceful, money was plentiful, the world and the Latter-day Saints were moving along quietly together and everything was prosperous. It is so easy under such circumstances to drink into the spirit of the world that many were beginning to lose sight of the distinction which exists between God and Belial.

But the devil and his agents could not be easy to have affairs remain so quiet. He and those who are led by him always defeat themselves. They have cunning, but that is all; they have no wisdom. Had they wished to destroy the Latter-day Saints and their system, they ought to have known that to commence persecution at this juncture was not the method to adopt. Their proceedings have startled the people, have aroused them from their lethargy and infused an activity into their faith which they have not known for a long time. The Judge of this district and those who have been operating with him in these proceedings deserve, on some accounts, a vote of thanks from the authorities of the church. They have been most effective missionaries. They have aroused the people to an extent that no amount of preaching and exhortation has been able to do. Prayers have never been more fervently offered, meetings have never been better attended, families have never been more united and brethren and sisters have never greeted each

other more warmly and cordially than since the proceedings against the leaders of the church commenced in the Third Judicial District Court. If persecution does not promote the growth of a religious body, it at least makes it more compact; it deprives it of dead members and gives it a healthful vigor. You can more easily make many men fight for a religion than you can induce them to live up to and carry out its principles. Assail them or their friends and you arouse their combativeness. They are in no humor then to yield or concede. A point that might be readily gained by coaxing or other inducements, would, when demanded or sought to be obtained by force, be resisted to the death.

The kind method, the method of heaping favors upon the believers of the gospel, is one which the devil has not yet learned, and we are glad of it. It is healthy for the people of this Territory to have such attacks to resist as are now being made upon them. Without them, they might become indifferent and careless upon many important points; the Church also might be endangered by the increase within its pale of hypocrites and corrupt persons. In taking a calm, dispassionate view, therefore, of the situation of affairs in this city and Territory, we think the Latter-day Saints have abundant cause to be thankful. Their enemies now, as they have so repeatedly done in the past, are conferring benefits upon them, are contributing to build up the system and to give it a more wide-spread and durable fame.

THE Cincinnati Times imagines serious things concerning this part of the globe, such as multitudinous vexatious lawsuits, excitement growing deeper, grave rumors of apprehended trouble, somebody gone on a mission of which no one appears to know either the destination or the object, something very unusual on foot, involving resistance or emigration, and nobody can guess which, only that polygamy will not be given up, a mission to San Francisco to secure the best legal talent in that city, that the legal "battle will be hard fought, but after all it is as Justice McKean said, not so much. The People vs. Brigham Young that is being traversed, but the Federal Authority vs. the Power of Polygamy."

It is to be hoped that the Times will not get unduly excited—things are quite calm here, all is quiet on the Jordan, and nobody and nothing is; very badly hurt yet, only judicial reputation and the finances of divers persons, for capital is very sensitive, and the unwarrantable litigious proceedings with which Utah has been blighted of late have had a very depressing effect upon her financial prosperity, for which those who have been instrumental in instigating, fomenting, magnifying, and needlessly continuing that litigation must be held directly responsible. We have striven all we can to have peace and to maintain peaceable relations with all the world.

THE "Crisis in Utah," thinks the Omaha Bee, is come at last, and the "crack of doom" is not far off. The Bee evidently has been led to think all this and a great number of still more absurd things by reading that magnificent specimen of forensic eloquence, the primary exordial words of which are as follows—"Thomas Hawkins, I am sorry for you." The Bee man is so thoroughly penetrated with a sense of the overwhelming judicial sorrow, that he gets angry at the supposed "Mormonic" cause, and "lets off" a column of the old sort of invective, abounding in Thugs, Danites, cowardly fugitives, murderous miscreants, infamous cut-throats, demon priesthood, bloody record, immortal hate and murderous spirit, hardened criminals, and similar amiable expletives.

The Bee seems to believe that the "Mormons" are really the horrible characters which it thus blindly pictures forth, and, judging upon these absurd premises, proceeds to call for "martial law" and lay down the plain duty of the authorities in Washington, thus—

The duty of the government is clear and should not be evaded. If martial law was useful the other day at Chicago, and if it still exists in undiminished vigor in Texas and South Carolina, it is still more necessary in a remote Territory like that of Utah at a crisis of unexampled peril. Salt Lake City, unlike Chicago, is not a city friendly to American institutions, and the federal

cantonment a few miles from the Mormon capital is only a camp in an enemy's country. At an emergency like the present the resident "Gentiles," cut off from the mining camps, are too few to repress the disorders of a community drunk with unholy rage and fanaticism. What Utah needs at this juncture is a dictator of the stamp of General Sheridan, or, better still, Gen. Connor, who, from his long residence in Utah, and administrative experience—whether civil or military—throughout the Territory, is master of the situation, and, if invested with authority, would thoroughly vindicate American ideas of law and order.

The Bee is unfortunate in its recommendations, in several respects, some of which we may mention. The reference to martial law in Chicago is particularly unhappy, seeing that those foremost in developing that sort of rule there are to be presented for indictment. Nor does it appear that the reference to martial law in Texas and South Carolina is much more felicitous, for it does not seem to be very popular with the country, though it may be with a party as a partizan measure. The Bee ought to have learned that martial law in Utah is not only utterly unwarranted and uncalled for, but would be a positive and glaring outrage, and that the country is not yet very wonderfully enamored of that rigid rule either in Utah or elsewhere. The Bee should endeavor to become better informed.

THIS is how the Denver Tribune talks about one of its contemporaries in this city—

The Deseret News, edited by Geo. Q. Cannon, is a paper of considerable merit, rarely indulging in invective or anything but the calmest reasoning. But it has a way of treating the "crisis" lately arisen in Mormon affairs, peculiar to itself, a way which challenges admiration for its ingenuity, if not for its wisdom. It affects to believe that it does not know what the real meaning of the government "crusade" against the Mormons can be. It affects to believe that there is no reason for the steps which have been taken except in the hate of the government and its officers. The continued reiteration of this ignorance, stated with the most saint-like air imaginable, may mislead some into believing that there is really virtuous innocence there, but we call it hypocrisy. There are none so blind as those who will not see, and that is why Elder Cannon is peering here and there to see what the United States authorities mean. As he is already arrested, together with Brigham Young and other high dignitaries, for criminal conduct, and yet does not know what is the matter, will not some intelligent judge or jurymen in that Territory of many wives inform him?

We are much obliged to the Tribune for its complimentary remarks. Of the real meaning of the "crusade against the Mormons" we have our opinion, but we do know that there is no sort of cause for it, except in ignorance or malevolence. As to the insinuation of hypocrisy, the Tribune is welcome to indulge in it if it chooses, but very ignorant indeed of "Mormon" history, or wilfully slanderous, must that man be who prefers the charge of hypocrisy against the "Mormon" people. If any religious body under heaven has fairly and fully earned a title to sincerity, it is the Mormons." We contend, and we can prove before any equitable tribunal, that the present crusade against the "Mormons" is wholly unjustifiable, and we are confident that such will be the verdict of history.

THE Reese River Reveille has several very sensible paragraphs upon the situation in Utah, some of which we extract—

It is the misfortune of the United States courts in Utah that they are openly accused of being biased against Mormons. There is no doubt in the mind of the impartial observer that the trial of a Mormon is tantamount to a conviction. The Hawkins case sufficiently demonstrated this. What aggravates the matter is that the indictments against Wells and Stout were procured on the evidence of a self-confessed murderer. Bill Hickman says that he murdered Yates, but acted upon the suggestion of others. Surely no intelligent and honest jury would attach any importance to the testimony of such a man. There may be others who

testified as he did; but we think it safe to affirm that they will be found to be of the same ilk.

The Salt Lake — is relenting towards the Mormons. That paper has done a good deal towards bringing about the prosecutions against the Mormon chiefs, it has waged vigorous war against them, has been the firm support of Judge McKean, but now pronounces his method "questionable." It discovers that that magistrate persistently "ignores the true intent and meaning of the Territorial Acts, and arbitrarily turns those Acts from their legitimate uses, so as to make them weapons of warfare against the fanatics who contrived them." Just so; but this discovery should have been made sooner and before Judge McKean carried his "method" so far as to condemn a man to three years at hard labor.

There is not another place in American territory to which he (Pres. Young) could lead and reorganize his people were the latter willing to abandon the homes built by them at such enormous cost of labor and hardship. The Mormons will not leave Utah in a body, nor is it desirable that they should. They are a thriving and industrious population which it would be found impossible to replace for a long time.

THE following is from the Salt Lake correspondence of the New York Tribune—

You have already published the section of the Territorial statute, passed by an exclusively Mormon Legislature in 1852, when Brigham Young was Governor, and approved by him, under which the present indictment was found. Of course that law was never intended to punish the act of polygamy as practiced by the Mormons. It was aimed at a totally different offense, that of sexual intercourse without the formality of marriage. This fact has been variously commented upon by visitors since the commencement of these proceedings. It has happened that several prominent members of the bar, east and west, and one United States Judge, have visited the city temporarily during the past week. To all these the Court room has been an object of interest, and criticisms not altogether favorable to the positions assumed by the Chief Justice, have been publicly indulged in. The visiting Judge to whom I have alluded remarked to your correspondent that in his opinion the intent of the law should govern the proceedings under it, and that as the men who passed the Act did not intend to stamp as infamous one of the prominent articles of their religious faith, it would be a gross perversion of law as well as of justice to so construe the Act as to make the system known here as "plural marriage" lewdness under the Act. He characterized the course pursued by the prosecuting officer, under the sanction of the Court, as rather the trick of a pettifogger than the well directed effort of a sound jurist to punish crime. With the Act of Congress against polygamy—the very crime which it is now sought to punish by this prosecution—still on the statute books unenforced; with the duty of the prosecuting officer plainly pointed out by the terms of that Congress enactment, he failed to see the propriety of instituting proceedings under a Territorial statute, designed solely for the punishment of prostitutes and other vile characters.

THE New York World thus gives the reasons why the "Mormons" are officially persecuted and the Oneida Community are not, but it should be remembered that we institute no comparison between the two communities—

Certainly their social practices do not, to the general apprehension, gain by a comparison with the mere polygamy of Utah. Nevertheless, let not the hearts of the perfectionists be troubled. As an ideal of domestic life the community may not be a success.

But its members are quiet, peaceable, and, except in the social province of things, law-abiding persons, and they make no attempt to convert the Gentiles to their peculiar modes of thinking or of acting. They make honest silk and forge good traps. All these things might not protect them from the angry virtue of Uncle Sam. But luckily for them they are few in numbers.

And still more luckily there is no political point to be made by bringing the great moral ideas of the dominant party to bear on them, and making up at their expense for the sins that Mr. Grant and the Hon. Tom Murphy are inclined to by loudly and expressively damning those which those gentlemen have no mind to. That is the real dif-