

the condition in which they exist, is called hell, and is likened to a lake of fire and brimstone, and the degree of their punishment, as well as the period of their continuance therein, is graded and timed in accordance with their just deserts.

The objects of God's punishment are, chiefly, the vindication of His law and the reformation of the offender. Every soul must learn the eternal fact that "all things are governed by law," and that only that which submits to law is preserved and sanctified by law, and that in such submission alone is abiding happiness either for the individual or the family, community or kingdom. Punishment for violation of law is therefore essential to the existence and perpetuity of the heavenly government. But to continue punishment after justice has been satisfied and the sufferer has come to true repentance and obedience, would be as cruel, as unjust, and diabolical rather than divine. The grand object of the plan of redemption is to bring all things and persons into harmony with Deity. But in that work eternal laws must not be ignored, neither must the claims of justice be rejected, and therefore punishment must always be ready for the wilful offender, and consequently there must be eternal punishment in the economy of an eternal God, in which the sinner must receive his portion according to his works, but no more.

It would be well, as the *Sun* suggests, if the orthodox sects were to define their present views on this important subject, but before promulgating a rectified creed they had better seek for definite information concerning essential articles of faith, lest in a short time they have to make another change. And for light concerning doctrine and principle, relating to the gospel of the Redeemer, we can direct them with confidence to the revelations of God to the Latter-day Saints through prophets and apostles, which have been placed on record and published to the world. They are as a light shining in a dark place and are the unchanging truths of the Great and Eternal God.

THE CONFERENCE.

The Conference which closed on Sunday afternoon was a memorable one. It was attended by representative Latter-day Saints from all parts of Utah and from adjacent Territories, and on several occasions the Large Tabernacle was crowded in every part. The instructions were of a practical nature, tending to inform the mind in relation to those duties which are required of the several officers of the Church, as well as of its members, and to promote union, charity, forbearance, humility, reliance upon God, and also personal rectitude, chastity, honesty and integrity. There was a peaceful and joyful influence present, and it was experienced by both speakers and hearers.

The reorganization of the First Presidency was the chief incident of the occasion. It was not generally anticipated, but met with universal approbation. Experience has proven to the Latter-day Saints that the Lord's plan is the best that can be devised. The order of the priesthood as established and defined by revelation cannot be improved by man. Circumstances may arise to hinder for a time the full and complete workings of the machinery in all its parts. But all the quorums and councils of the priesthood are necessary for the perfect power and harmony of the system, and when any part is lacking the deficiency is necessarily felt.

As was the case after the death of the Prophet Joseph Smith, the Council of the Twelve Apostles took charge of the affairs of the whole Church at the death of President Brigham Young. This was in strict conformity to the revelations of God in relation to the presiding power. And as in the former instance, the proper time having arrived, the First Presidency or head has "grown out of" or been "appointed from" the body of the Melchisedec Priesthood. All Israel, while endorsing the regime of the Twelve while acting as the presiding quorum, will now joyfully sustain the new First Presidency, composed of Apostles John Taylor, George Q. Cannon and Joseph F. Smith, men tried and true, and strong and faithful. So also will the

appointment of Apostle Wilford Woodruff as the President of the Twelve Apostles, and of Elders F. M. Lyman and John H. Smith as members of that Council, meet with the approval of the whole people as it did yesterday in Conference.

No one could look unmoved on the united action of the several quorums and the body of the people in their rising votes with uplifted hands to heaven, nor fail to feel the power that comes from union of heart and hand as manifested in the voting in that Solemn Assembly. It was an exhibition of spiritual power that cannot be found anywhere on earth but among the priesthood of the Most High God.

The disquisition on the nature, power, duties and responsibilities of the Aaronic Priesthood, compiled by President Taylor and read at the priesthood meetings; was another feature of the Conference of peculiar interest and giving general satisfaction.

THE WAY NOT TO DO IT.

THE tirade of mingled calumny, invective and brutality delivered by Dr. Talmage in the Brooklyn Tabernacle, as reported in the *New York Express* and other papers, seems to delight a certain class of persons laying claim to the title of Christians. The discourse contains a great number of positive falsehoods, chiefly old slanders that have become stale by frequent repetition, and which have been refuted so clearly that no honest person acquainted with the subject would notice, to say nothing of using them in attacking the character or doctrines of the Latter-day Saints. It also contains many coarse epithets too gross for repetition in these columns, and exceedingly out of place in a professedly Christian pulpit. And it further contains Talmage's only remedy for the spread of "Mormonism," that is slaughter and carnage. The argument he proposes for the refutation of principles that we hold as divine is, cannon loaded with powder and ball.

Such an harangue would disgust pure-minded and godly people, but it appears to please those whose hearts are imbued with bitterness against a religious body holding tenets differing from those of modern "Christian" sects. The *New York Herald* seems to be delighted with the way in which Talmage "went for the wicked 'Mormons,'" to use its own elegant phraseology, but thinks there are difficulties in the way of breaking up "Mormonism" and destroying the "Mormons" to which Talmage has not obtained the key. We think so too. In fact Talmage knows nothing about either the "Mormons," their religion or their history, and therefore is not likely to be a very good authority as to the best method of attacking them. True, Talmage was here for a day or two recently, and lectured in our Theatre, but instead of seeking for information from those likely to impart it correctly, he suffered himself to be stuffed with nonsensical stories that have no more to do with "Mormonism" than "Gulliver's Travels" have to do with the exploration of "the dark continent." As a sample of the hoaxing to which he was subjected—if he tells the truth, which is quite doubtful—he says: "I saw a cellar where a mother and two sons had been put to death, the mother slain in the presence of the two sons, and the two sons butchered, because they had revealed the secrets of the Mormon Government." The proof of this was positive of course; he actually "saw the cellar," what could be more conclusive? The preacher was in search of something sensational, as he always is for sensations are his stock in trade for which, by his own showing, he has hunted in the lower haunts of crime and immorality—and failing to find anything of the kind here, he was content to take the sight of a cellar as the imaginary basis of a baseless story that nobody living here ever heard of before.

The *Herald* is right so far. Talmage has not the key to the solution of this "Mormon" problem. But neither has the *Herald*. Here is what that paper offers:

"The best the government can do except in rare cases, is to give Mormon women facilities for ridding themselves, if they choose to do so, of dishonorable bonds and to protect respectable people in the dissemination of intelligence, which is

the life-long foe of polygamy and every other form of indecency."

The ignorance of the great papers of the country on this question is truly lamentable. What greater facilities can be offered by any power than those that now exist for "Mormon" women who desire to leave their husbands. There is nothing under heaven to prevent them from doing so if they want to. Divorce in Church and State is simple, inexpensive and easy in Utah; too easy perhaps, but made so in order that there may be no excuse for the charge that women are in bondage here. The great blunder of all who undertake to show how the "Mormon" marriage system may be broken up springs from their blindness to the fact that the "Mormon" women are as much if not more interested in the continuance of that system than the men. And that interest in either sex proceeds from the conviction that the system is divine. Neither Talmage's guns, nor the *Herald's* "government facilities" will blow out or break up that conviction from their souls.

As to the protection of government "for respectable people in the dissemination of intelligence" in Utah, recommended by the *Herald*, that is all fudge. Respectable people have never needed any "protection" in Utah "for the dissemination of intelligence." Our meeting-houses have been thrown open repeatedly to ministers opposed to our faith, churches and school-houses of various denominations have been erected here, and no one has molested the builders nor those who have taught therein. If denunciation of our peculiar tenets is classed under the head of "the dissemination of intelligence," this has been freely indulged in by so-called "respectable people" and many who cannot be ranked in that category. There is no place on the continent where a community have endured, without retaliation, the abuse of their best men and women, the ridicule of things which they hold most sacred, and the publication from platform and the press of gross libels, intemperate attacks, unjust aspersions and malicious abuse, as the Latter-day Saints have in Utah. If any one desire to "disseminate intelligence" among the "Mormons," there is nothing here to hinder him, and he will need no protection of any kind. The most that any of our would-be regenerators have to complain of is that we let them too severely alone.

If intelligence is "the lifelong foe of polygamy," why do not the intelligent opponents of plural marriage avail themselves of its power, instead of all the time falling back upon physical force? "Christian" ministers join with infidel editors and demagogic politicians in the invocation of the power of bolts and bars, and powder and ball, the gleaming bayonet and the shafts of bloody death, instead of relying upon the agency of diffused intelligence. Why is this so? Simply because the position of the *Herald* on this point is incorrect. Intelligence is not the foe to the "Mormon" system of marriage. It requires intelligence to understand and appreciate it. Those who undertake to attack it by argument generally misunderstand or misrepresent it. They set up a polygamic man of straw or bag of wind, and proceed to demolish or puncture it, by supposed intelligent reasoning. They leave the real thing untouched, and because its adherents are not moved by the assault, they are at once set down as ignorant or depraved, or both, while the truth is, their position has not been reached.

If intelligence is the foe to any portion of the creed of the "Mormons," let the preachers and writers of the land cease to urge on Congress and the Administration measures of repression and extermination against the "Mormons," quit talking about guns and prisons, armies and fetters, and come on with their strong reasons. The "Mormons" have been convinced into their faith and practice, perhaps they may be convinced out of it. If they cannot be reasoned out of their convictions they certainly cannot be converted out of them by the roar of cannon, the torch of arson, the gloom of dungeons nor the might of armed men. Neither can they be touched by the ignorant declamations and blood-thirsty sentiments of pretended ministers of Jesus, nor the shameful abuse of editors and lecturers. All these weapons have been tried in vain. They will continue to fail. Force is the argument of tyrants, falsehood the weapon of the wicked. Both will be found powerless against

the system called "Mormonism," because it is founded on principles of eternal truth, and exercises its power in the souls of its adherents.

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One sorrel HORSE, about two years old star in forehead, right hind foot white, BT on left thigh.

One small dun colored HORSE MULE, lame in left hind leg.

Which if not claimed in ten days will be sold as the law directs, at the Estray Pen, on Wednesday, October 20th, at 10 a.m.

GEORGE T. COTTAM, District Poundkeeper. St. George, Oct. 10th, 1880.

ESTRAY NOTICE.

I HAVE IN MY POSSESSION:

One gray HORSE, 10 years old, branded WR combined on left thigh.

One red and white COW, 3 years old, white face, undershoe off left ear, crop and swallow fork in right ear, branded on left hip, she has a calf.

If not claimed and taken away, will be sold Oct. 18, 1880, at the estray pound, Parowan, at 10 a.m.

SAMUEL T. GILTON, District Poundkeeper. Parowan, Iron County, Oct. 8, 1880.

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