

EDITORIALS.

"EDUCATION FOR THE MORMONS."

A GREAT deal of nonsense is published about the lack of education in this Territory. Most of it originates with impecunious preachers of certain denominations who make periodical visits to the eastern States for the pious purpose of raising money, and who, after wearing threadbare the old yarns about imaginary atrocities and frightful horrors in Utah, fall back on the subject of education, as one likely to touch the hearts—and pockets, of the generous, sympathizing and simple.

The latest attempt of this character is an effort of a person in Ogden, who has been making a tour through some of the States and endeavoring to collect means to aid him in educating ignorant "Mormon" children, which he endeavored to impress upon his hearers was a work of heroic courage and measurable martyrdom, so great was the opposition of the "Mormon" leaders to education. The *Sunday School Journal* contains an article entitled "Education for the Mormons," in which a call is made for scholarship subscriptions for the benefit of the mendacious person referred to, and whose name we do not care to print as we have no wish to give him the benefit of such an advertisement. Twelve dollars is the sum asked for, to educate "one of the children of Mormonism" for year, the amount of course to be forwarded to that individual.

One lady, it appears by this article in the *Journal*, has handed over to him six hundred dollars for this purpose, and the assertion is made that in Ogden "five or six hundred Mormon children might be secured had the managers of the school the money to pay for this service." How many other charitable persons have been duped in this manner the *Journal* does not inform us.

We pronounce the whole scheme a fraud upon the "Christian" public. It is simply a plan for the personal emolument of the very insignificant individual who has started it. Everybody who knows anything of Ogden is fully aware that not half of one hundred such children could be "secured" in any such institution as his, even if their whole expenses were paid gratuitously.

There are now within the corporate limits of Ogden city no less than seven "Mormon" day schools in active working order, (suspended during the past few days solely on account of anticipated danger from smallpox,) in commodious school houses mostly fitted with patent seats and desks and other school appliances, fully attended, and managed by competent teachers duly authorized by certificate from the board of examination. In these all the common branches of learning are taught. In addition to them there is a High School or seminary, the Principal of which is a Professor who has been very successful in teaching young men and ladies the higher branches and preparing them to become teachers themselves.

Then there are some private schools and a well conducted educational establishment under the auspices of the Episcopal Church, as well as the little primary school taught by the author of the above scheme, and which has never amounted to a great deal because of the incompetency of the persons who have been placed in charge.

We notice that at the meeting, in Boston, of the Social Science Association, on the 9th inst., the educational status, among other matters relating to this Territory was greatly misrepresented. While there is large room for improvement in this respect, Utah has accomplished much towards the education of her children. More of her school population receive the benefits of a tuition than those of many of the States. The ignorance of the rising generation here is grossly exaggerated. Considering the condition of the people, who, driven from the borders of civilization by the brute force of "Christian" bigotry, settled in this wilderness without any other capital than brain and bone and muscle,

wonders have been achieved and the schools of this Territory should be the subject of commendation. They are continually improving. The leading men of the Territory are and have been earnest in their desires and labors to secure to all the children the advantages of scholastic learning. And if some of them do not approve of the system which others desire to introduce, the opposition is not to education but to modes or plans which they do not believe to be founded in wisdom.

Utah has made praiseworthy progress in education, and her advancement will be more rapid as her wealth and opportunities increase. She is doing nobly now. If any generous persons abroad desire to aid in the good work, no one that we are aware of has any objection. But we do object to any misrepresentations on this important subject, and we are entirely opposed to the deception practised on the religious public in relation to this matter, by individuals who have no other real object in view than their own aggrandizement at the expense of the well meaning and benevolent upon whom they intrude their pious impositions.

APPLETON'S CYCLOPEDIA.

We are in receipt of the following communication from the publishers of the above work, in relation to the letters on the subject which have appeared in our columns:

Editors Deseret News:

Referring to the communication in your paper of December 27th, we beg to say that—

I. The article "Mormons" was written by one of our most intelligent and impartial contributors, Mr. Robert Carter, and is entirely correct and just in all its statements. The same is true of the articles, "Joseph Smith," "Brigham Young," "Salt Lake City," and "Utah."

II. It is the first time that any book of reference in the English language, or in any other language, has given the Mormon version of the events in their history, as well as the adverse statements on the other side, which are expressly characterized as the assertions of opponents.

III. The current statements on the subject could not have been omitted without violating the laws of historical composition, which require an impartial presentation of both sides of a question, when it has more than one side.

IV. Our article accordingly, contains the statements of Mormons themselves, which of course, are the most favorable that could be given; while those of a contrary character being ascribed to "opponents" and not accompanied by any disparaging remarks, can have no injurious tendency, and furnish no just ground of complaint, to the most devoted Mormon.

V. In this respect Appleton's American Cyclopædia presents a strong contrast to all other Cyclopædias, which eminently adapt it to circulation in Utah, and will make it eagerly sought and highly prized by every intelligent and fair-minded Mormon.

[Paragraphs VI, VII and VIII contain nothing but extracts from Johnson's work.—EDS. NEWS]

IX. It is thus seen that Johnson fully endorses the statements of the enemies of Mormonism, which he endeavors to circulate without a word as to their origin; while Appleton's indulges in no comments on the character of Mormonism, or its founders, and the disparaging assertions of its opponents are traced to their true source.

X. It is hence evident that Appleton's American Cyclopædia is not open to the strictures presented in the DESERET NEWS, and that its fairness and impartiality will not fail to be recognized by all who look candidly into the merits of the case.

THE PUBLISHERS.

APPLETON & CO. ANSWERED

ABOVE our readers will find a communication from the publishers of The American Cyclopædia. It is designed to meet the objections to that work advanced by two of our correspondents. How far this is accomplished will be

better seen after a little further investigation.

The strictures of our correspondents were directed against the misrepresentations on "Mormon" affairs contained in the Cyclopædia. The publishers now assert that the articles entitled "Mormons," "Joseph Smith," "Brigham Young," "Salt Lake City" and "Utah" are "entirely correct and just in all their statements." We do not know who their Mr. Robert Carter is, the breath of fame has not wafted his name across the Rocky Mountains, but taking his article as a sample of the intelligence and impartiality claimed for the gentleman, we are forced to the conclusion that he is sadly deficient in both. However, we have nothing to do with him, the publishers are responsible for the articles and have endorsed them in the most positive manner. Let us see how "correct and just" they are.

In the article on "Mormons" it is stated that the three witnesses to the Book of Mormon subsequently "renounced Mormonism and avowed the falsity of their testimony." We challenge Messrs. Appleton & Co. to produce proof of this assertion. We pronounce it entirely false, and the injustice of it is made apparent by its insertion in that part of the article which the publishers claim to be the "Mormon version of the events in their history." It is also stated that "the fact is fully established that the real author of the Book of Mormon was Solomon Spauldin, &c." Now it is a matter of history that the work claimed to have been written by Solomon Spauldin, if such a work ever existed, was totally different in its subject, composition, objects and entire material, from the Book of Mormon. The whole story about Sidney Rigdon's connection with it was clearly refuted beyond dispute many years ago, and the introduction of the absurd gossip into a work claiming historical accuracy and to be used as a book of reference, is a mark of extreme folly and exhibits the animus of the writer against the denomination whose career and tenets he pretends to explain.

The events in "Mormon" history which it relates are, many of them, incorrect. The Church was not organized, as stated, at Manchester, out at Fayette, Seneca County, New York. Thomas B. March is misrepresented, and the name of the person referred to is not "March," but Marsh. Relating to the troubles in Missouri it is asserted that the Mormons "fortified their towns and defied the officers of the law." This is well known to be untrue, and that the collision that took place was with armed mobs of "Christian" fanatics. The statement that "in 1838 Joseph Smith persuaded several women to cohabit with him," is unsupported by any evidence whatever, and the quotation immediately following, purporting to be "the formal denial of polygamy," is incorrectly given from the Doctrine and Covenants, with the evident purpose of altering its meaning and intent. In the description of the orders of the "Mormon priesthood" it is stated that "the offices of bishop, priest, teacher and deacon can be held only by literal descendants of Aaron." This is not true. Joseph Smith is described, according to "Mormon" doctrine, as "the God of this generation," which is another invention of the writer's. Through the whole stream of the pretended history of the Mormons there is a current of misrepresentation and falsehood, which renders it unreliable and contemptible, and exhibits the animus of a bigoted opponent. We do not apply this epithet to the writer of the article; he has evidently culled his information without effort to test its correctness, from anti-Mormon works and older cyclopædias, disfigured with the same untruths.

In the article "Joseph Smith" it is stated that "his family was disreputable," that "with the aid of Sidney Rigdon he brought forth the Book of Mormon," and that "in a town named Far West his disciples gathered, but their irregularities occasioned an outbreak against them;" all of which is utterly false, with the exception of the fact that a few of the Saints lived for a short time at Far West. Joseph's family was not disreputable; it is well known that he never saw Sidney Rigdon until long after the Book of

Mormon was published and the Church established; also that the Saints committed no irregularities at Far West unless worshipping God in the name of Jesus Christ be deemed an irregularity. It is also stated that at Nauvoo "the Smiths refused obedience to the authorities," which is as great an historical inaccuracy as the other assertions.

In the article "Salt Lake City" it is affirmed that "The government is vested in a mayor and common council, but they are really controlled by the President of the Mormon Church." The latter part of this sentence is a gratuitous untruth, exhibiting the same malice which runs through the other articles. It is also stated that we have here "no public schools." But in the article "Utah," the number of public schools is given, also the number of private schools with the average attendance at each, and it is explained that the expenses of schools are met partly by taxation. Will Messrs. Appleton & Co., who vouch for the correctness, impartiality and justice of all these articles please tell us which of the two statements is right, and how much credit for historical accuracy can be given to a work which contradicts itself in such positive terms?

The article "Brigham Young" is all of a piece with the others. For instance, take the following: "On the appointment of a Governor who was not a Mormon, he began to disregard the laws and defy the authority of the Federal Government." Against this, put Governor Cummings' official report, which is a public document and of easy access to the compilers of such a work as the Cyclopædia. We make the following extracts: "I have been everywhere recognized as Governor of Utah; * * * I have been universally greeted with such respectful attentions as are due to the representative of the executive authority of the United States in this Territory. * * * 'Ex-Governor Brigham Young paid me a call of ceremony as soon as I was sufficiently relieved from the fatigue of my mountain journey, to receive company.' Gov. Cummings further reported that the Government records and other property supposed to be destroyed was intact and 'in perfect preservation.' The alleged destruction of these records was 'the defiance of authority' referred to in the Cyclopædia, and which caused the folly of sending an army to Utah before the facts were ascertained."

The article further says, "Young is grand archer of the order of Danites, a secret organization of the Church, which is one of the sources of his absolute power." Who ever heard of such an office before? And who that knows anything of "Mormon" affairs is not well aware that the "Danite" story is as sheer a piece of fiction as anything to be found in Gulliver or Baron Munchausen? And it is such stuff as this which Appleton's Cyclopædia palms upon the public as "history," and which its publishers endorse as "entirely correct and just!"

The attempt to prejudice the public mind against Johnson's work is childish in the extreme. Supposing it is blacker than they would paint it, does this make their falsehoods true? We are not endorsing Johnson, but merely showing up Appleton. The publishers say their article "contains the statements of Mormons themselves." We have looked carefully through all the mixture of much fiction with a little fact in relation to these subjects, and can find no paragraph which any "Mormon" authority would communicate, or endorse without the elimination of palpable errors.

Hence it is evident that this work, so far from being adapted to "circulation in Utah" and to be "eagerly prized by every intelligent and fair minded Mormon," is one on which they can place little reliance. Knowing beyond the possibility of a doubt that the articles we have noticed are grossly incorrect and tinged with a deep color of prejudice and unfairness, they will naturally infer that much other matter may be equally unreliable, and therefore will decline to expend so much money as its price upon a work in which they can place no confidence whatever if the articles which the publishers vouch for as "correct and just" are to be taken as samples. That is the position taken by our correspondents; that is the position we now take, and we are led to assume it by the very impolitic and illogical communication of the publishers.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

The *Independent* comes to hand once in three days, and then always one day later than the date of issue.

Talk of dull times, will you! Chicago's wholesale and jobbing business last year exceeded that of 1876 by \$9,000,000.

Ogden has only one case of smallpox, in its mildest form. We hope to hear of no more. The city had better keep up its caution for some time.

Japanese goods are in demand in this country. New York has now 67 stores where those articles are a specialty; last year that city only had four.

Preachers of all denominations are still greatly agitated on the subject of "hell." They used to agitate their hearers mostly on this subject. It is only fair that they should be troubled in turn.

England still hankers for American oysters. One thousand and forty-seven barrels of the bivalves were recently shipped in a single day from New York for John Bull's tables.

The Ohio people raised by taxation last year over \$11,000,000 for school purposes. Besides adding to existing accommodations for pupils, that State built 490 new school houses.

During the past year the State debt of New York has been reduced \$12,000,000. This is under a Democratic administration. The State still owes \$11,000,000 with a good prospect of its entire liquidation.

The Chicago *Times* of the 14th inst., which can be had at Dwyer's contains over nineteen columns of close reading matter on the subject of future punishment, which is now agitating the Christian world from centre to circumference.

Bell's telephone has been introduced into Germany, where it has received the name of "Fernsprecher"—"Far Talker." So long as Bell is touched to the tune of \$50 for each patent right, he will not be likely to object to mere titles.

Immigration to this country during the year 1877 was much less than in some former years, and shows a decrease of 17,000 passengers from the number of 1876. The Germans more than doubled the number from any other nationality.

Kangaroos and rabbits are ravaging the interior of the Australian colonies, and especially in Queensland are committing such depredations that the settlers are organizing for their destruction. As many as a thousand kangaroos have been killed in a single day. Their skins make excellent leather.

When Job was asked "Canst thou send lightnings, that they may go and say unto thee, here we are?" were the telegraph and telephone foreshadowed? They certainly answer the question and literally fulfil the implied prediction.

Wyoming follows the example of older settled districts and runs into debt. Carbon County, which is said to be the smallest in the Territory, owed at the commencement of the present year the nice little sum of \$0,892.40. If Wyoming doesn't reform the m will have to be dropped from its name.

The Pennsylvania people are going to make a big pipe—anti-bacconists need not be troubled, it is not for smoking purposes. It is to reach from Butler County to Baltimore, a distance of 230 miles to convey crude oil. Six thousand barrels per day will the pipe's carrying capacity.

The Indian Bureau has cost this country about \$8,000,000 per annum for the last ten years. How much has "Lo, the poor Indian" received of this amount? It is estimated by those who know the inside workings of the Indian ring, that at least \$5,000,000 a year has gone into the pocket books of the "Indian" friends.

Scribner's midwinter number just out, is a splendid specimen of literary ability and the publisher's art. The reading matter, the engravings, the whole make up a magazine are first class and show what can be accomplished by an American enterprise. It can be obtained with all other leading periodicals at Dwyer's.