

unnecessary bloodshed among those who have been forced to surrender. A little activity in naval and army circles, such as that now reported going on along the Atlantic coast, would give point to such an argument and make the logic of it quite forcible.

MISSTATEMENTS REGARDING MOR-MONISM.

In a letter in this morning's Tribune, signed "Only a monogamist wife," there is a criticism of an alleged interview of a San Francisco newspaper writer with Mrs. Martha H. Cannon, senator-elect from Salt Lake to the next Legislature. So far as concerns any issues between the writer of the letter and Mrs. Cannon, who already has pointed out the general inaccuracy of the interview on the main points objected to, the News does not care to interfere. But with regard to the assault which the writer of the letter covertly makes on the system of religion known as Mormonism we have to state that the author of such letter is welcome to any supposed honor to be achieved in the bigotry, unfairness and misrepresentation of its assertions. One of these is as follows:

Added to this the Mormon tenet that woman in herself cuts very little figure in the plan of salvation—that she is to answer to her husband and that he holds her destiny in his hands.

This idea that woman herself cuts very little figure in the plan of salvation is not and never was inculcated as a Mormon tenet—it is diametrically opposed to Mormon teachings on the subject; and this is well known to every person who has a modicum of knowledge concerning the religious belief of the Mormons. The only investigation for any individual acquainted with Mormonism to make such a statement as the one quoted is a desire to misrepresent facts. In Mormonism, each person holds his or her destiny in his or her own hands, woman as independently as man; and both cut an equally important figure, since both are the subjects of salvation. It has been the policy of one class of unreliable anti-Mormons to cry out that woman is given too little consideration by the Latter-day Saints, while the slogan of another class has been that she is made too highly important, a special object of assent in the latter line being the idea in the Mormon hymn, O My Father, given in these words:

In the heavens are parents single?

No; the thought makes reason stare!

Truth is reason; truth eternal

Tells me I've a mother there.

When I leave this frail existence,

When I lay this mortal by,

Father, mother, may I meet you

In your royal court on high?

Then, at length, when I've completed

All you sent me forth to do,

With your mutual approbation

Let me come and dwell with you.

Thus the Mormons do not seem to satisfy every carping critic; nor do they desire to do so, their aim merely being to be right. But when an individual takes the opportunity of disagreement with views of a citizen in political position as a means for misrepresenting and assailing a community's religious

belief, the action is not a display of either personal love of fairness and goodwill or of Christian love and truth.

KEEPING CHURCH RECORDS.

The keeping of records in the Church is a subject to which presiding authorities in wards, quorums and other Church organizations should attach great importance. On the day of the organization of the Church the Lord gave a positive command that a Church record should be kept; and on other occasions this record was referred to as a part of Church duty not to be neglected. So essential is this matter of keeping Church records that in both ancient and modern revelation the fact that an individual's name was excluded and his genealogy not kept was a measure of severe condemnation upon the person so situated.

In the Church organization, it is composed of branches, wards, quorums, stakes, etc., each of which of necessity has its own record, and all combined are a part of the general Church record of members and their history in the Church, from their birth to their death; a history of the Church generally is not a complete record of its affairs without the specific information contained in these various records; it takes them all to make up the general Church record, for that cannot be perfect when there is omitted the Church history of one person entitled to a place therein.

So strongly was the importance of having the various ward records placed and kept in good condition impressed upon the Church authorities, that a special effort has been made in recent years to get everything in good shape. This effort accomplished excellent results in completing those records which were not in perfect condition. But the subject does not yet receive the attention it should do. Notwithstanding the sending of a special missionary to every ward in Zion, and to every organized branch of the Church in the world, to direct special notice to the keeping of records, there are many wards, some of them in those leading Stakes of Zion where opportunities are especially abundant for obtaining thorough instruction, where these records are not properly kept. Even in Salt Lake Stake there are wards whose presiding officers and clerks should blush for shame at the imperfect manner in which their ward records are made. This comment may appear severe to those who do their duty in this matter, but it is justified towards those who neglect that duty. Every ward in Zion should perfect its record of Church members in accordance with the obligations placed upon those who have immediate jurisdiction in the premises.

THE FUTURE OF PALESTINE.

The New York Observer, discussing the future of Palestine, arrives at the conclusion that the hoped-for restoration of that country to the descendants of Abraham may never come, and that although Palestine will again be

come cultivated and prosperous, "to the Jews it will always be a land of promise."

The writer argues that a restoration through the efforts of Christians is exceedingly improbable. The jealousy of Russia for the safety of the holy places stands as a barrier against every effort to establish any other power there than the czar's. And as for the Jews themselves making any move towards the land of their fathers, that is considered equally improbable. The great body of the Jews are exceedingly poor and can do nothing without the aid of their wealthy brethren, and these are unwilling to leave the great commercial centers and are apt to excuse their inactivity on the ground that God will accomplish His purposes in His own way and time. Neither Christians nor Jews are therefore likely, the Observer thinks, to take the initiative towards the restoration of the holy land.

The logic may seem sound, yet it entirely ignores the fact that the belief in the establishment of the Hebrew race as a nation in Palestine is founded not in the expectation that the European nations will unite in an invitation to the scattered remnant to return and take possession of their land, but on the promise that the God of their fathers will establish them there, if they will turn to Him with all their heart; and this, notwithstanding such a course may conflict with the supposed interests of other nations. The final gathering of the covenant people will be somewhat in line with their deliverance from Egypt and their entrance into Canaan. There will be opposition. The regeneration of the Jewish nation is looked upon as the sequel of a period of tribulation from which there is no salvation except through the interposition of the arm of Jehovah.

The declarations of the ancient prophets concerning the restoration of Palestine and events connected therewith set forth in general outlines a chapter of important history of the human family. Zachariah, for instance, who lived after the Babylonian captivity and whose prophecies consequently cannot be interpreted as relating to the destruction of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar and the restoration from that national disaster, sketches plainly the history of his people from his day to the end of the present dispensation. He tells of the fall of Syria, Tyre and Sidon, the conquests of Alexander (chapt. 9: 6), the coming of the Messiah and the extension of His kingdom upon the earth. The destruction of the holy city by the Romans is also foretold, as well as the calamities subsequent to that event. And then follows a wonderful prediction, according to which the Almighty shall interpose in behalf of His people against the nations of the earth in the latter days:

And in that day will I make Jerusalem a burdensome stone for all the people: all that burden themselves with it shall be cut in pieces, though all the people of the earth be gathered together against it. * * * In that day will I make the governors of Judah like a hearth of fire among the wood, and like a torch of fire in a sheaf; and they shall devour all the people round about, on the right hand and on the left; and Jerusalem shall be inhabited again in her own