

THE QUESTION OF THE HOUR.

Thoughts on the Motives and Tactics of the Crusaders and the Attitude of the Saints.

Editor Deseret News:

The present time may appear to natural eyes to be a very dark period indeed for the Latter-day Saints. They are environed by their enemies on every hand. They are confronted by "fifty-five millions," because, forsooth, they have espoused an unpopular code of theology.

THE GILT EDGE OF THE OPPOSITION

that is arrayed against them is that they practice the awful crime of living with, supporting, and caring for the offspring of more than one living and undivorced wife. For this purpose that notorious congressional abortion known as the Edmunds act was enacted. In the enforcement of that measure, which was enacted professedly for the protection of morality, as well as aimed against "Mormon" polygamy, those who have manipulated the machinery of government in Utah in behalf of the fifty-five millions of people aforesaid have manifested the extreme zeal in prosecuting one class of offenders under the said Edmunds act, while other flagrant violations of the same enactment have, it would appear, been studiously overlooked, and, in some cases, have met with the most earnest apologies from those who are blood and thunder on the "suppression of 'Mormon' polygamy" dodge.

We have seen abortionists, seducers and other libertines go scot free of any of the penalties of the law. For this class the law has been allowed to remain as a dead letter. The whore-monger, the pimp, the procuress, the *demi monde*, the adulterer and other adjuncts of so-called "Christian" civilization roam and contaminate our lovely mountain vales unmolested in the least degree by these pious

"REGENERATORS" OF UTAH.

So far from them being so much as censured by the party of reform (?) they have been held up by said party as exemplars for our boys and girls to follow. Quoth they, "Come out from under the restraint of your fathers. Never mind, if you are brought up in good homes and under wholesome instruction, so long as you are foolish enough to listen to your parents you are slaves! Come out, and be like us; destroy your bodies and souls in the brothels, saloons, gambling halls, etc. 'Never mind the excesses, if, through them, you can become free.'"

Such is the Christian (?) counsel of those who thunder forth their venom against the Latter-day Saints.

As one of those who have been born and reared of Latter-day Saint parents, I think I voice the sentiment of tens of thousands of those of like honorable parents when I say that from such damnable heresy, good Lord deliver us.

Furthermore, our enemies have gone outside all law and wholesome regulation in order to convict honest and honorable citizens. It appears to me that it would puzzle "a Philadelphia lawyer" to keep trace of the anti-"Mormon" rulings of the Utah Judiciary. They seem to be twisted and turned in every conceivable manner in order to meet the requirements of the particular cases at issue.

I know of several cases pending just now in those kinds of transgression. I am astonished at the assurance people seem to have of the conviction of any and every "Mormon" who may be held to answer for the enormous crime of living with his wives and "holding them out to the world as such." It appears that conviction is as much a foregone conclusion with the masses as it is with the "persecuting attorney," etc. And in the light of recent rulings it would be absurd if it were otherwise.

I remember well the Reynolds test case. It was commonly remarked among our people during the various stages of that case, that the law under which it was prosecuted would certainly be declared unconstitutional. When it was taken before the Supreme Court of the United States, it was confidently predicted that that august tribunal would not sustain the lower courts' decision, nor that the law of 1862 was agreeable with the true genius of the Constitution. But in this we were disappointed. They did decide contrary to Amendment One of the Constitution, as I honestly believe. In this opinion I was recently confirmed by the assertion of the New York world (an eminent authority) in answer to a correspondent that the Supreme Court had, by its "Mormon" decision, practically

ANNULLED AMENDMENT ONE OF THE CONSTITUTION.

It appears to me that this is the only sensible definition of the decision. From that time things have gone from bad to worse. It is notoriously self-evident that juries are packed with the special mission of convicting any and all "Mormons" who may be charged with polygamy, etc., etc. If citizens show the least inclination towards believing in "Mormonism" they are immediately disbarred from acting as jurors. They are especially required to solemnly testify that they are "in sympathy with the prosecution."

Whoever heard of such an unwarranted injustice. If it was sought to be perpetrated upon the Negroes of the Southern States, the republicans from Maine to California would be ablaze with indignation. But the "Mormons" only being the sufferers, who cares? Notwithstanding the confessions of U. S. officials that we stand exceedingly higher morally than those who call so loudly for the abolishment of polygamy, the war still goes on. Many of our best men are confined in felon's cells, for no other crime than that they have recognized the voice of God and have sought to obey His laws, and will not violate their sacred covenants or disown their loving wives and children. Who can but admire the heroism of these brave men? It seems to me that if our relentless persecutors have but the faintest spark of humanity remaining within them, they cannot but admire such unflinching integrity.

For how can man die better
Than by facing fearful odds,
For the ashes of his fathers
And the temples of his gods.

The fact is apparent now that those who are persecuted and cast into prison and subjected to pains and penalties remain unmoved. Their example inspires the young people among the Latter-day Saints with a desire to be true to the principles that cost so much true manhood to maintain. They realize that the fathers must have intense sincerity to endure so much for their religion's sake. They readily perceive that unless their fathers and mothers were imbued with the divinity of the work in which they are engaged how easy it would be to compromise, one by one, every principle they have espoused; and, for a brief period, gain the favor of the wicked and the mercy of unjust judges, etc.

I do not consider the present crusade

AN UNMIXED EVIL.

It is truly proving the Latter-day Saints. Some have, I am sorry to say, yielded to its pressure, and for present security only have renounced those solemn obligations that would bring them eternal safety. Others have shown that they are willing to endure pains, penalties, imprisonment and even death itself, rather than compromise their conscientious convictions. Tens of thousands of the Latter-day Saints are bestirring themselves and drawing nearer than ever to God—their unflinching help in time of need. It will not be long before some of the burden of the persecution of our "polygamous" brethren. All who dare be called Latter-day Saints will share directly in the results of the crusade. It will yet be a grievous sin in the sight of modern pharisaic demagogues for a person to profess belief in any intervention of Almighty God in the affairs of men. The mask is being fast removed. The thin gauze is being taken away rapidly from the "anti-polygamic" and "high moral" war-cry of the rapacious crew.

IT IS PLUNDER AND SPOILATION IN DISGUISE.

It is our union that is troubling our enemies. They fear that organization "more splendid than any other on the earth" that is established in these Rocky Mountains. They would fain hope that the plan called "Mormonism" is a delusion, and as such, sooner or later, be brought to naught. But they sense an inherent power in the system. They are fearful lest it will ultimately survive all opposition and triumph in the land. They are not in a mood to accept the proposition of the ancient sage to "let it alone, lest haply they may be found to fight against God." Their capital is "Public opinion," and as long as they can keep that well fanned by their false reports and missionary zeal and demagogic jugglery, so long their nest will be feathered and their pockets lined. That is the desideratum, the *summum bonum* of the devices of our enemies, their patent gilding and oily tongued misrepresentations to the contrary notwithstanding.

Yes, the struggle will go on. Our enemies will apparently flourish like a green bay tree. The constitutional barriers that have protected the destiny of the United States will be torn asunder. Demagogues will continue in power for a season, and

WHILE THE WICKED RULE THE PEOPLE WILL MOURN.

But it is an exceedingly long lane that has no turning. Their race will be run in due time. Our glorious Constitution was framed by the inspiration of God, and He will not suffer it to be eternally obliterated by wicked stewards, though their name is legion.

After His purposes are served, the Saints will emerge from under the cloud, stronger and better for the chastening.

Truth is mighty and will prevail. All we have to do is to do right, fear God and keep His commandments in all humility and the triumph will be achieved as surely as the day follows the night.

SEARCHER.

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CORRESPONDENCE.

DEATH AT HEBRON.

HEBRON, Utah,
August 29, 1885.

Editor Deseret News:

In behalf of a mourning family, I take the liberty to report the death of their beloved husband and father. James W. Hunt, who died at this place very unexpectedly on the eve of the 11th inst. A stout, brave young man, with a young family, passed away after a few days of severe sickness. He stopped breathing almost as calmly as going to sleep in the midst of family and friends.

He testified to the truth of the Gospel and begged his family to be true and faithful to all the requirements thereof.

Brother J. W. Hunt was the son of Amos Hunt, and was born in the State of Kentucky, on the 27th of July, 1843. He removed with his parents to Salt Lake Valley among the early settlers, and was among the pioneers that located St. George in Washington Co., and a prominent citizen of Hebron for many years. The funeral service and burial were attended to in appropriate manner. Nearly the entire population of our little town joined in the procession from the residence to the meeting house, where proper music, singing and speeches were listened to with profound attention. Teams being then prepared, took such as wished to see the body laid in its final resting place, in the burying ground about a mile from town, where the evergreen, solitary cedars, as sentinels stand to guard until the trump shall sound and the dead come forth from their graves and meet their friends that are living.

JOHN PULSIPHER.

What Sporting Men Rely On.

When Lewis R. Redmond, the South Carolina moonshiner, cornered, after for eight years eluding the government officials, was asked to surrender, he exclaimed:

"Never to men who fire at my back!" Before he was taken, five bullets had gone clear through him, but strange to relate, he got well, in the hands of a rude backwoods nurse.

By the way, if Garfield had been in the hands of a backwoods nurse he might have lived. A heap of volunteer testimony against the infallibility of the physicians has been accumulating of late, and people are encouraged to do their own doctoring more and more. It is cheaper and quite as certain.

Before Detective Curtin of Buffalo caught Tom Ballard he "covered" him with his revolver. Tom saw the point and tumbled.

Joe Goss was covered a few weeks ago and he tumbled, and so did Dan Mace. Death "fetchad em" with that deraided weapon—kidney disease. But they should have been lively and drawn first. They could easily have disarmed the monster they covered him with that dead shot—Warner's safe cure, which, drawn promptly, always takes the prey. It is doubtless true that sporting men dread this enemy more than any mishap of their profession, and presumably this explains why they as a rule are so partial to that celebrated "dead shot."

Redmond was right. No man should surrender when attacked in the back. He should "draw," face about and proceed to the defence, for such attacks, so common among all classes, will fetch a man every time unless "covered" by the wonderfully successful "dead shot."—*Sportsman's News*.

SUNDAY SCHOOL UNION MEETING.

The September meeting of the Deseret Sunday School Union, took place in the Assembly Hall on Monday evening, commencing at 7.30 p.m., Stake Supt. J. C. Cutler, presiding.

The Sixth Ward Silver band rendered some selections on the opening of the meeting, after which, the First Ward choir, who furnished the music during the evening, sang, "Glorious Things of Thee are spoken."

Supt. Alexander Steele offered up prayer, and the choir sang, "When the Rosy Light of Morning."

At the time the roll was called, all the city wards, with the exception of the Tenth were represented, and Big Cottonwood, East Mill Creek and Farmer's Wards of the country.

Stake Superintendent Cutler said he was gratified to see so many present and hoped all present, would observe good order.

The band played another selection. Asst. General Supt. George Goddard, in his address on "Duties Connected with the Superintendency of Sunday Schools," said we have a Sabbath school in every Ward in this Stake of Zion. Each Ward is governed by a Bishop and two Counselors, who in connection with the Teachers, have enough to do to look after the interests of the people, besides Primary, Young People's Associations, Relief Societies, and Sunday schools. When a school is organized, the Bishop of the Ward and the Stake Superintendent select some person to take superintendence, and other officers are appointed, whose duty it is to give the children a religious training. The superintendent has a corps of teachers to assist him, who should find out how many school going children live in the district, and an invitation should be ex-

tended to every person to attend. It should be the ambition of every Superintendent to gather in all the children possible in his Ward.

Another important duty should be the commencement of the school on time. The superintendent should be a man whose example would be worthy of being imitated by the children.

A monthly teachers' meeting should be held, the school being dismissed half an hour earlier on such days, to have a full attendance of teachers present. The Union has published rules for the guidance of superintendents, which can be had free of cost.

Another duty to be observed in our schools is the administration of the Sacrament. The singing should be entered into by the whole school. We have over 40,000 Sunday School children throughout the various Stakes of Zion and not one of the officers or teachers receives pay for his labors.

The speaker said he felt gratified to think he was connected with such a momentous work. He had not met with better children anywhere than are to be found here. The masses who attend these meetings come here for instruction. Observe the Word of Wisdom, and the wisdom you gain use to the best advantage and put in practice in your daily lives. Do not touch, taste or handle anything that will steal away your brains. When you leave this house go straight home, and do not stand on the street smoking cigarettes.

In conclusion the speaker said that if those present lived to his age, they would then realize and know the truth of what he had told them.

The choir sang an anthem, "Let every heart rejoice and sing."

Supt. T. V. Williams was called upon to make a few remarks. Those who are engaged in the Sunday School cause can well endorse the remarks of Bro. Goddard. Parents could not but realize the good that our Sunday schools were doing. The attendance of children in some districts has been reported as high as 87 per cent., but what are the remaining 13 per cent. doing? Their parents need looking after, that their children may avail themselves of the opportunity that is presented. The children had received the Gospel just as much as their parents. Shall we take it for granted that because nine-tenths of the children have a testimony we shall give up. No, let us seek out the least one. His desire was to continue in the work he was engaged in, and especially just now, when evil influences are surrounding the young.

Brother Goddard said the assistant superintendents should not be allowed to remain quiet, but should be schooled, so that when the superintendent is absent the school will not lack in interest.

The Sixth Ward silver band rendered "The Sweet By-and-By."

At the next meeting, in October, the Second Ward school will furnish the music and door-keepers. The time of commencing will be changed to 7 p.m. instead of 7:30 as heretofore.

Assistant Superintendent Richard S. Horne said he had witnessed, yesterday, in the 14th Ward Sunday school, the dismissal of the primary class, the children marching in single file to music from the organ. He thought it an excellent plan, and commended it to other schools.

The choir sang: "Hope of Israel."

Assistant Superintendent Thomas E. Taylor said he had taken his seat in the gallery during the evening just to see how the boys and girls really did behave. They were not quite so bad as he had been led to believe.

Benediction was pronounced by Brother T. E. Taylor.

DAVID R. LYON,
Assistant Secretary.

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