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[illegible]

A BOOK OF ILLUSIONS.

In giving an account of a sermon held in Salt Lake City, September [illegible], a few days ago, the Ogden correspondent under the pseudonym "One Looking Backward" [illegible] "Our pleasing feature I noticed was that I did not see a cup of tea or coffee on the table, and there was not a round dance raised for during the evening." The party referred to was given by a [illegible] Ward, Elder James A. [illegible] and [illegible] and the missionaries' wives, were present. The occasion, and in the programme which included speeches, songs, instrumental music and dancing, was also "the best of all things" in the form of a [illegible] supper.

So far as most of the factors of the Salt Lake City party are concerned, it was but an example of what may be observed in order in nearly every ward in the Church. As the officials having a welcome [illegible] of a hospital wellbeing of [illegible] people, [illegible] among members of their ward, or bringing [illegible] to happy relations with [illegible] and filling their hearts with joy, peace, and joy, and love, by dealing with the little things of life which are sometimes [illegible]. All this is in perfect consistence with the Gospel which is salvation to those who obey it, both in this life and in the hereafter, for the care of a divine and loving Father is not for His children in mortality [illegible] beyond the grave.

But in the words of our correspondent there is a suggestion that may seem strange in view of the attitude of the Church upon the Word of Wisdom, and which only the respect it should lead upon the minds of presiding officers in every department of Church work. The Word of the Lord is to be [illegible] revelation through the Prophet Joseph that is to the Church nearly [illegible] years ago. The Word of Wisdom, declares that that revelation shows forth "the order and will of God in the temporal salvation of all Saints in the last days," and also that it is given for a principle with promises, adapted to the capacity of the weak and the weakest of all Saints, who are or can be called Saints." That revelation teaches that drinks are hot drinks, for barley, strong drinks, and eaters of meat for food does not lead to the temporal salvation and welfare of the Saints, in fact that these things are not good to be taken in moderate bodies.

This revelation comes from the Almighty, or cannot be His purpose, looking to the manner in which they shall preserve their bodies and minds, in the way of food and drink suited to for an treasury, [illegible] the supposition of man, [illegible] of the Lord. As such, we would naturally suppose that every person who lays claim to the name and [illegible] of a Latter-day Saint, [illegible] with [illegible] would pay a more regard to it, which the Lord has revealed. Yet in respect to one of these factors, [illegible] the Saints to be the divine [illegible] seems to be such a [illegible] as [illegible] [illegible] the proceedings. We don't [illegible] would be [illegible] [illegible] "regard of [illegible] a glass of [illegible] for [illegible] who [illegible] would have been [illegible] the [illegible] was [illegible] [illegible].

In the case of the Salt Lake [illegible], it is an [illegible] of [illegible] a day [illegible] and [illegible] brings a [illegible] of [illegible] the [illegible] [illegible] about the [illegible] of others whom [illegible] a [illegible] exception? In this incident there surely is an improper lesson to be learned. Those ward officers are to a large extent representative of the Church policy in regard to matters with which they are connected. They are under the direction of Church auxiliary officers, every official act should be an exemplar to the people and a [illegible] [illegible] honor on behalf of our Religion. And if in these ward functions there either this morbidness, [illegible] and provide for a violation of the divine law, what is the effect of their example, and what the influence of any teaching they may give society [illegible] to say nothing of their own [illegible] in disregarding the counsel of the Lord? Surely as ward or other officers who pursue the course referred to, if any there be, will thus justify the forces of earth generally, in the force of the argument [illegible] of the Church authorities.

Ward functions are most common [illegible] the upon agricultural occasions, as also are minor meetings of the Relief Society, [illegible], Sunday schools, and other organizations under Church direction. But with such attention and control they can be conducted properly and by proceeding in perfect harmony with the divine law and Church discipline, to the exclusion of everything of an evil character. In doing this there is no infringe of any man's rights. If people wish to disregard sacred counsel, that is their own responsibility, but they must not expect those officers approval of permission. Upon those holding authority in the matter in various wards there is a demand of duty which cannot be ignored with safety, that in assumption under their [illegible] they shall be neither [illegible] nor countenance a violation of the counsels of the Most High. Those who stand up for the right to monopolize, in violation, to give and dance, and with [illegible], to use or represent of that high record which comes of duty well performed.

FOR "HIGHER CRITICS."

Prof. E. J. Wolf, of the Theological seminary, Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, is a recent article in the *Independent* shows a parallel that is calculated to throw light on the [illegible] raised by the modern advocates of the so-called "higher criticism" of the Bible.

One of the most important of the papers to which Professor Cornelius has set straight [illegible] is a message to Congress on the Hawaiian affair. One would naturally suppose that a message of this nature, written as it was but yesterday, would give the [illegible] different opinions as to the authorship, among critics well acquainted with the strong peculiarities of the distinguished gentleman whose name it bears, and conclusion, one would think, to judge of such matters. The fact is all the more remarkable [illegible] widely different opinions on this subject have arisen and have been freely published.

Hon. Edward Rod Carson in the *Philadelphia Star and Sentinel* says "As a matter of fact it is a great improvement on any other of Mr. Cleveland's messages, having evidently been prepared by Mr. Gresham." Mr. Dana, of the *New York Sun*, takes another view and is for [illegible] of the message is a restatement in Mr. Cleveland's own language of the argument for the policy of his party." Mr. McCulloch [illegible] for more than thirty years [illegible] with the political leaders of the country, and [illegible] with their characteristics of style in speech and writing. And Mr. Dana's qualifications as a judge of the authorship of an official document will not be questioned. How, then, is the fact accounted for that one of these able writers sees in the Hawaiian message the "improved" style of Secretary Gresham, while in the other it is almost entirely the President's own language?

With this contradiction of each other by expert critics, in the case of a modern document, the "higher critics" of the Bible will find it a difficult task to reconcile their claim that they can easily pick out what paragraphs and verses thousands of years ago wrote and spoke. They tell us that Moses wrote this and some other of Moses' writings that they claim to be able to recognize the peculiar compositions of David as distinct from those of Moses, and assert that David could not have written certain portions of the book that bears his name. And as proofs are they that they refuse to recognize as a similar majority who claim to question the authenticity of their signatures. Since it is demonstrable, however, as in the case of the President's letter to Congress, that mistakes as to the authorship are possible, even in the question being a simple one, how much more likely it is that some of the statements of ancient writers, in a question of such importance as a number of facts, some of which are so large as to be considered by the majority of the world as [illegible] "inspired writings," may be a matter of [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]