

Correspondence.

DESERT ALPHABET.

NEMPH, JUAN COUNTY,
January 10th, 1870.

Editor Desert News:—Dear Sir:—
In order to encourage those teachers throughout the Territory who, already having onerous duties to perform in teaching their numerous classes, think they cannot spare time to teach the Desert Alphabet, I take the liberty, through the columns of the DESERT NEWS, to state that I have a day-school, composed of eighty children of all ages, in which I have introduced the Desert Alphabet with success.

Many, no doubt, think, as I have heard it expressed, that they have no time; that, besides, it is difficult for children to learn, and that it interferes with the common English alphabet and orthography. I can say, that for my part I have found it altogether to the contrary, and experience proves to me that all that is necessary, is to put the First and Second Readers into the children's hands and they will learn to read in them without teaching. I have my classes read in them once every week, and I find they can do so as easily and quickly as they can in the First and Second Readers of Willson's series, in which they have read for years.

I would say to my brethren, the teachers, try it. There is not any of you but what can devote at least an hour every week to this branch of education, and as Latter-day Saints it is a duty binding upon you, being the direct counsel of our wise and far-seeing President.

I would also say to every father and mother in Israel, buy these books for your children; they can be had for a trifle. Encourage your offspring in learning to read! Do not throw cold water upon the efforts of our leaders in this respect by being dilatory in providing the books or in making light of the subject in any way, and we will soon have a good and distinct orthography as well as a good and distinct religion.

I hope these few remarks may not prove detrimental to the end in view, I am, respectfully,
W. R. MAY.

For the "Evening News."

SALT LAKE CITY, Jan. 15, '70.
Editor Desert News:—Dear Sir:—
I have observed something of a controversy, going on through the papers, between the Vice President, Hon. Schuyler Colfax, and Hon. John Taylor, of Salt Lake City. Mr. Taylor is a man of enlarged views and of decided ability and talent. Of Mr. Colfax, I need say nothing; his former record advertises his ability. No person acquainted with Mr. Taylor, and understanding his relation to the church of which he is a member, need be in doubt as to which of the two men will get the worst of it.

If Mr. Taylor's strength does not consist in his natural and acquired abilities, the cause which he advocates is strong in itself. A schoolboy may, with propriety, declare that five times ten are fifty, and there is no talent, ingenuity or skill enough in the nation to disprove it. But with all due respect to both parties, how does it look in the Hon. Vice President to enter into a controversy with a "Mormon" elder in these days, when great men are careful to stand upon their dignity? Will his friends be proud of his encounter with a preacher of the "Latter-day Saints," especially if he gets whipped out, as he most assuredly will? It is true that "Mormonism" is rather its advocates, may have had their imperfections and may still have them, but are these any reliable proofs of the fallacy of their system? As well might the father repudiate his child, because in his infancy he could not walk in a steady and upright manner at all times.

The prophet Daniel was once rather awkwardly situated; He was inclined to call upon his God daily and to trust in Him for everything desirable; but the chief men of Babylon were jealous of him, and being crafty, they leagued together, to proceed from Darius, by flattery and words and apparent sincerity and fairness, a decree that whoever should call upon any other god or man, for the space of thirty days, for any favor, except upon the king, should be cast into the lions' den.

They well knew that the prophet would not and could not submit to any such decree, though made pursuant to the laws of the Medes and Persians, which could not be altered. Consequently they would have him in a snare and could proceed against him by law, to his utter destruction in the lions' den. All christendom will acknowledge that this was a most damnable strategy to destroy the friend of God.

Those chief men, Daniel's accusers, believed no more in the prophet, than the authors of Cragin's and Culom's bills, believe in Joseph Smith and Brigham Young as the faithful friends of God and inspired from heaven. But to their sorrow, they proved to themselves and to all Babylon that their unbelief did not nullify the designs of Providence in relation to His chosen friend; for when the tables were turned, the Lord sent not His angel to shut the lions' mouths, and those shrewd and cunning plotters escaped not the fury of the wild beasts.

I cannot say that God will deliver His people from the designs of plotting and wicked men in our day without passing through some tribulation; but this much I can say, that no faithful Latter-day Saint is going to disobey his God to please or gratify any class of men that seek, by their craft and cruelty, to nullify the purposes of Jehovah. He cannot! He will not!! He dare not!!! God says you shall obey me. Men say, if you do, we will punish you by law and reduce you to the condition of serfs, fugitives, vagabonds, prisoners, and even unto death. Now what shall we do? Shall we obey God and take the consequences or shall we obey man and disobey God and take the consequences?

If the great men of our nation really want the honor of instituting these extreme measures against the Latter-day Saints in Utah, and are prepared to take the responsibility of inaugurating a legal system of persecution against them, we have not the power to withhold from them this honor. For one,

I will say, that should those bills for the disfranchisement of the Latter-day Saints, now before Congress, become law, it will amount to a declaration of war against the Heavens! And though we may be subjected thereby, to many disagreeable and uncomfortable circumstances, yet some of us will live to see whom the lions will destroy, and the flames consume, and upon whose walls the finger of destiny will write "Mormons, False Prophets." In my humble sphere, I would respectfully suggest to the nation, for their sakes and for ours, that they consider well, all the bearings of those "Bills," and the consequences of their action in relation to them.

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