

# DESERET NEWS:

## WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

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CHARLES W. PENROSE, EDITOR.

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### THE SECTARIAN CRUSADE AGAINST THE "MORMONS."

IN another column will be found reports of the action of the Protestant Episcopal Church in relation to "Mormonism," one taken at a general convention in October, 1880, and another in April, 1881. We have reports of a similar character from other so-called "Christian" bodies, which we shall also present to the public, arrangements having been made to advertise them in this paper, the object being to acquaint our people and others with the feelings and sentiments entertained towards us by societies pretending to be the friends of our youth, and which are seeking on the one hand to obtain power over the rising generation of Zion, and on the other to stir up the national authorities to forcible measures against the adult portion of this community.

It will be observed that the Episcopal people are growing in bitterness and increasing in a desire for the employment of force against the Latter-day Saints. The sincerity of many of our people is admitted, and it is conceded that harsh measures would fall heavily upon many innocent persons. Yet these representatives of an extensive and orthodox church, professing the profoundest regard for Christian principles, urge not only immediate legislative and judicial measures, but also "the strong force of the military arm."

What are the reasons advanced for this heathenish and barbarous method of extirpating something that is deemed to be heresy? First that "the best interests of Christian civilization are impeded in one of the Territories of the United States, by polygamy." Second, that polygamy is contrary to the law of God. Third, that it is forbidden by a law of Congress. What is meant by the first of these assertions? Simply that the Protestant Episcopal Church does not make headway in Utah, and therefore its leading ecclesiasts are angry with the Latter-day Saints and desire their destruction.

As to the second, it is impossible of proof. All the scriptural evidences show the opposite. For, the men with whom God most communed, as the scriptures declare were practical polygamists, and their plural households were peculiarly favored of heaven. All we have to say to the third assertion is if any of the "Mormons" violate a law of the land punish them, after conviction by lawful methods, but do not, under pretense of magnifying the law, try to inaugurate a military crusade against a people whose great offense is adherence to an unpopular faith.

To return to the first assertion, "Christian civilization" in its commendable forms is not impeded in Utah. It is only in its degrading and debasing tendencies that it is hindered. It is acknowledged by every candid and fairminded visitor to Utah that the people of this Territory are progressive, sober, industrious, devout, attendants on public worship, honest, simple in their habits, united, tractable and law-abiding—putting aside the one disputed law that troubles their "Christian" assailants. It is also admitted that there is less of those gross forms of vice which disfigure modern society than exists in any other part of the country with the same population; less drunkenness, prostitution, secret crime, rowdyism, gambling, beggary, pauperism, fraud, chicanery, and other abounding evils of the world.

What is it then that is "impeded" in Utah? Simply the advance and increase of orthodox sectarianism, and yet nothing unlawful is done to prevent the establishment and growth of any ecclesiastical system, here, no matter how wrong in principle, or foolish in its ceremonies and services, it may appear to the masses of the people.

On the contrary, and to this we draw especial attention, the best of opportunities have been afforded the ministers of the leading religious sects who have visited this Territory to present to the "Mormons" their peculiar views and tenets. Our tabernacles and meeting houses have been placed at their service, and our people, young and old, have been invited by our leading Church officials to attend and hear what the visitors had to say. They have been treated with uniform kindness by the Latter-day Saints. When they have established churches and schools here they have not been molested, but some of our people have helped them with money and influence. How has all this been returned? Why, they have misrepresented and abused us to the public, and now seek to correct what they allege to be our errors by invoking special legislation, and the enforcement of rigid laws, and if that is not sufficient the military arm of the Government for our suppression.

But notwithstanding their anti-Christian and brutal spirit, we will not attempt to retaliate. We can afford to treat them with a proper regard for their civil and religious rights, and will seek to maintain them as faithfully as our own. We will protect them so far as we are able in their religious freedom, although many of their mummeries and much of their so-called religion are the silliest of nonsense in our eyes, and will show them that we are far above the level of their intolerant and heathenish level. Yet at the same time it is only common prudence for us to abstain from giving them gratuitous opportunities for accomplishing their fell desires. And it is the rankest folly for people called Latter-day Saints to encourage these persons in their schemes. More than that, it is positively wicked and in violation of the plainest duty, for Latter-day Saints to place their children under the care and influence of men and women, who are aiming, in the first place, to lead the little ones from the faith of the gospel into the vagaries of sectarianism, and in the second place, to bring destruction on this community by civil and military force. How long, O ye simple Saints will you close your eyes to the folly and sin of which you are guilty, who send your innocent offspring to be tutored in the ways and spirit of these hypocritical agents of error and intolerance? We warn you against your inconsistency and wickedness, and as a reminder of the character of the sleek and oily deceivers who are insinuating themselves into your midst, we shall keep standing for awhile the advertisements of the formal action of the professing "Christian" churches, and of the sayings of some of the crafty gentlemen (?) who are seeking control of your little ones by fair words at home, while they lie about you abroad and seek to bring upon you swift destruction. Read and reflect!

### THE METHODIST WING OF THE NEW CRUSADE.

IN addition to the resolution of the Protestant Episcopal Church on the subject of "Mormonism" already printed, we now present to our readers the Report of the Methodist Conference on the same subject. It will be seen by a perusal of the document that the Methodist pretenders to the title of Christian ministers, are more venomous and mendacious even than their regular Episcopal confreres. The several allegations set forth in the preamble are malicious falsehoods, framed for the purpose of deceiving the public, and inciting national as well as popular hostility to a Church and people who form a standing protest against the assumptions and dogmas of orthodox theologians.

Not content with the untruth that "Mormonism" is antagonistic to the Government, these pious fabricators assert that it is "professedly hostile to American government and American institutions," while it is plainly set forth in our standards of faith and practice that the constitutional laws of the land and the proper authorities of the nation are to be upheld and observed, and it is publicly preached by our leading ministers that the Constitution of the United States was brought forth under divine inspiration. The garbled quotations cited in support of the fallacies advanced have no bearing on the question, but relate to

another subject—that of the right of Deity to govern and direct the world by virtue of his Godhead and authority as the Creator.

The infamous statement that the "Mormon" Church "professedly erects murder, robbery, and oppression to the grandeur and sanctity of religious duties" is sublime in its gigantic falsehood. Our creed is to the exact and diametrical reverse. It denounces murder as the highest crime before God and man, and one for which, in its worst aspect, there is no forgiveness either in this world or in the world to come. It forbids robbery and requires that those who commit it be delivered up to the laws of the land. It warns all against oppression and declares that no power in the priesthood should be used to oppress the souls of men, and that such a course is displeasing to heaven and punishable by the withdrawal of divine power and the loss of the authority thus unrighteously exercised.

There is no need for us to take up the several items in this tissue of falsehoods unanimously endorsed by two hundred and thirty Methodist ministers, claiming to represent 100,000 people; they are so outrageous in their reckless untruth that they should, to all sensible people, bear their own refutation. We question very much whether a dozen out of that 230 persons, eager for the employment of national force against the "Mormons," could give an intelligible answer to the question, "What is Mormonism." By looking at the signature to the document the whole tenor of it is explained. It is Lyford's report, adopted by the body of which he was a member, without knowledge as to the correctness of its assumptions. Lyford is the man of unblushing impudence who invented the story that in Utah he had to go into the pulpit with a Bible in one hand and a revolver in the other, a tale that was plagiarized by a Presbyterian preacher who, like Lyford, stumped the States to raise money on hobgoblin tales about the awful "Mormons." Lyford was exposed in his villany, and now hates the Latter-day Saints with all the bitterness of a black heart and an unscrupulous mind.

We do not wish to be personal, neither do we want to arouse any feeling of animosity towards the society which attempts in such an unchristianlike manner to destroy our religion by arousing popular fury and national force. We are perfectly willing to leave them in the hands of Him whose name they take in vain when they perform ceremonies in His behalf without the shadow of legitimate authority. But we have the right of self-protection. It is our privilege to take lawful measures in our own behalf that the designs of our enemies may not be effected. These professed representatives of the loving Savior who was the embodiment of truth and charity, as we have previously set forth have designs upon our children as well as schemes against us. Put the parents in prison, get control of the youth; that is their programme. Sectarian errors, mingled with secular tuition for the juveniles, special laws forcibly executed against the adults.

We place this Methodist libel on "Mormonism" and expression of intolerance and hatred on the advertising list with other similar productions of pious "Christian" preachers, that our people may ponder upon them and upon the propriety of helping them all that lies in their power, to accomplish one of the chief ends they have in view. Should we not send our children to schools established by these persons for the express purpose of leading the "Mormon" youth astray? Is it not just exactly the thing for Latter-day Saints to pray for the establishment of the Gospel and Kingdom of God on the earth, help to send missionaries abroad to convert mankind from the errors of apostate "Christianism," and then put their little children in the hands of Professors of spurious creeds, whose aim is to make the young folks believe that their parents are a set of murderers, robbers, oppressors or serfs, and their religion abominable, criminal and licentious?

Should we not honor and respect those who act in this truly consistent (?) manner, who bear testimony with their lips that this is the work of God, and by their acts aid its enemies in their most subtle designs for its destruction? And is it not the plain duty of Latter-day Saints to seek out, as the instructors of their children, those persons who lie the

hardest against them and the principles which they declare to have been revealed from heaven?

Read these documents, fathers and mothers, and then say whether the men who adopted them or their paid hirelings who endorse them, are the kind of persons who should be entrusted with the care of your offspring during the greater part of every week. As you act towards the undeveloped intelligences placed in your charge by the Eternal Ruler for a season, to see how you will conduct yourselves in the sacred relation of parents of their flesh, so will you have to give an account to Him who is the Father of us all in the great day approaching. And if you wish to have your sons and daughters rise up and call you blessed, beware how you train them, and into what influences you place them in their tender years.

Let the Pharisees of the nineteenth century fill up the cup of their hypocrisy and malice against the Saints of God, but let them not succeed in gaining control of the youth of our people, or woe will be unto us in time and in eternity!

### THE CRUSADE ENLARGES.

WE now add to our advertisement of resolutions of the churches against "Mormonism," reports of Presbyterian, Baptist and Congregational conclaves. Like the Jewish sectaries in olden times, who fought each other vehemently, but united in a raid against primitive Christianity, these modern votaries of discordant and clashing creeds combine to battle with the Church restored in the latter days. They are at war with each other on doctrine, discipline and fellowship, but they meet on a common platform when it comes to putting down an obnoxious and growing Church by material force.

It is to be expected that people who have not been in Utah and who have not investigated "Mormonism," but draw their ideas of it from hostile publications, may fall into many errors and be found opposing something which they understand nothing about. They are, to some extent, excusable for their mistakes, although to be consistent they should inform themselves from the proper source before attempting to oppose. But the malicious and false assertions of such persons as Leonard, Coyner and Barrows are inexcusable, and stamp them as without conscience and unworthy of common respect. The statements that "nearly all the offices are now filled by polygamists in Utah," and that "there are no free schools in the Territory," are wilfully untrue, and place the man Barrows, with the others whom we have named, on the level of Ananias.

There is one thing that should be noted in connection with these attacks on the Saints. It is claimed that in Utah there is a union of Church and State, and this is denounced by these sectarian assemblies of priests as something to be broken down at any cost. Yet it is State influence which these churches desire to avail themselves of in assailing "Mormonism." It is counted a terrible thing for a "Mormon" Apostle to be a Delegate in Congress, but it is all right for a Congregationalist preacher, an Episcopal clergyman or a Methodist priest to be a member of Congress and to use his legislative power under church antipathies and sectarian bias.

More than that. While these pretendedly pious declaimers against a union of Church and State, endeavor to provoke a popular outburst against the leaders of our Church for alleged interference in political affairs, it is political, not polemical influence which they are endeavoring themselves to exert. They are all in the same boat. They all cry out for legislation, not light. They demand national force, not religious ministrations. They want to crush, not convert; to stamp out, not to elevate. It is Church influence that they are seeking to bring to bear on Congress. A member of Congress speaks at the Congregational conclave, and all the resolutions passed on the subject of "Mormonism" in the several conferences and assemblies look to the power of the State, the arm of the National Government, for the strength invoked to deal with this "strange religion."

The moral force they expect to wield is to be brought to bear upon the rising generation. That

is, these formal worshippers of a Book which says "Honor thy father and thy mother," intend to influence as many "Mormon" children as possible to despise their fathers and mothers, and to poison their minds against their parents as well as the doctrines held by them. Money and all the appliances which sectarianism has at command are to be used to this end. These Utah scrub "divines" who pay periodical visits to the States and induce their co-religionists to join in a crusade against the Latter-day Saints make a good thing, peculiarly, of their annual trips. The stronger they frame their libels, the bigger the donations from the people who they deceive, the greater their power to establish themselves in the midst of the "Mormons" and the larger their pickings and opportunities to extend their influence.

But the question that concerns us most is, how much the people whom they malign while in the East are going to do by the way of rewarding them on their return, and of helping them in their designs upon our youth? Judging from the course of some people called by the name of Latter-day Saints, the proper thing to do is to send our children to be taught error by the men who defame us and who try to bring upon us political and social destruction. To give them control of our offspring while they plan to send us to jail and strive to arouse popular fury for our utter overthrow.

We hold these men and their schemes up to popular view, not for the purpose of harming them personally, but to present them at home as they show themselves abroad, so that those who patronize them or give them the care of their children, may know them as they are. If it is right to warn a man against a venomous reptile coiling to spring at and sting him; if it is proper to caution parents against devices to ensnare the feet of youth; if it is fair to expose falsehood and tear the veil aside from pious villany; then we are only doing our duty in pointing to the fangs of these slimy serpents, in protecting our people against a generation of vipers, and in doing what lays in our power to thwart the schemes of sneaking deceivers and to stir up thoughtful people to a due sense of danger.

There were no schools in Utah where the children of the Saints could be taught by preceptors of their own faith, there might be a seeming excuse for those who choose for teachers of the children, unprincipled and mendacious hypocrites who plot for the ruin of the fathers. But with just as good facilities within our own sphere as there are outside it, in this Territory, for the schooling of our youth, and with the indisputable evidences we have of the villany and specious designs of these pious frauds, it is worse than folly, it is nothing less than wilful sin against God, the truth and this people, for professed Saints to aid the crusade against us by supporting, assisting and encouraging such vagabonds by giving them the tutelage of the children. Those who take this course, as sure as the sun shines and justice will eventually rule, must reap the consequences of their wrong; their children will learn to despise them in time, and in eternity will curse them as the cause of the loss of the heritage which they might have obtained by virtue of their birthright if trained in the way of the Lord. We are in earnest on this subject, and consider all those who thus join hands with the enemies of this Church utterly unworthy of its blessings and fellowship.

### LOCAL AND OTHER MATTERS

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, JUNE 10.

**The Salt Lake Temple.**—As stated in the NEWS of the other evening, rock setting, for the season, has resumed on the Salt Lake Temple. The work began upon Course A of the third alphabet from the base, at a height of about 60 feet from the ground. The interior height is about 12 feet more. The work, this season, will probably comprise six or seven courses which, with 14½ inches to the course, will elevate the structure some seven or eight feet higher. This work will include the springing of 44 arches. Above this set will come a set of oval windows, which will be the last windows on the side walls, as then the structure will have reached the square, about 60 feet from below. After the building