

curacy; it will also give accounts and statistics of the mining and milling, farming, fruit, commerce and other interests of the locality, and sketches of early settlers of each place, making the work valuable for reference. The price of the book, instead of \$5, is to be \$1.50. As to the complaints that have been made, they were referred to Mr. Frank A. Des Moines, who is the company's manager, and he gives satisfactory explanations.

It is anticipated that the next county to be taken up for the atlas will be Cache county; and the people there, as well as in Utah county and elsewhere, may know that the design is to publish a valuable reference work in the field of the industry and development of the State.

ALLEGIANCE TO DEITY AND TO THE STATE.

In an address before the joint session of the Utah Legislature yesterday (Feb. 4) one of the speakers made a prediction regarding the future in Utah which evoked applause from the assembled throng. It touched upon a vital question affecting the relation of religion and politics, church and state. Mr. Thatcher's prediction was made in the following words:

The day must come in Utah when he who holds a higher allegiance than that which belongs to the State must not be a lawmaker in the halls of the State.

If ever the misfortune which is declared in the foregoing as one that "must come" to our fair State does operate, then it means that every Christian, whether Roman or Greek Catholic, or Protestant, or Latter-day Saint; every Jew, every Mohammedan, and every person who believes in and worships God as an omnipotent and all-wise Being, will be disfranchised in this State. There is no getting away from that point. Christianity, Judaism, Mohammedanism, and all religion, inculcates allegiance to God as the highest duty of man; and each person who recognizes Deity as the supreme ruler of the universe, in that relation gives to Him the highest allegiance of which he is capable. Yet by the terms of the foregoing quotation he would be barred from becoming "a lawmaker in the halls of the State." That sacred place in the civil fabric would be reserved for atheists who know no higher rule of conduct than the will of man.

In the light of history, logic and religion, the situation is easily demonstrated. If God is the Creator and Ruler of the universe; if He is omnipotent in the jurisdiction He exercises over His creations; if He is God, then He is supreme; and as such the only allegiance that can be given Him is that which attaches to Him in His capacity of being superior to all. There cannot be two supreme powers. The Infinite One is supreme, or He is not. And if He is supreme, to Him belongs the highest allegiance of which man is capable. The demand that that higher allegiance which of right is His should go to any other power is a denial of the Supreme Being, of the omnipotence of God.

The genius of American govern-

ment, as displayed in the expressions and conduct of its greatest men, upholds the supremacy of Deity. It was in a recognition of his higher allegiance to the Almighty that Andrew Jackson declared in his inaugural address, that "a firm reliance on the goodness of that Power whose providence mercifully protected our national infancy, and has since upheld our liberties in various vicissitudes, encourages me to offer up my ardent supplications that He will continue to make our beloved country the object of His divine care and gracious benediction." So Thomas Jefferson taught when on a similar occasion in his career he pleaded that "that Infinite Power which rules the destinies of the universe lead our councils to what is best." They recognized a Power greater than nations, and gave to it that higher allegiance which caused them to crave the favors of that Power to behalf of their beloved country. And in his inaugural address George Washington set to his predecessors the example they have followed, in these impressive words:

It would be peculiarly improper to omit in this first official act my fervent supplications to that Almighty Being who rules over the universe, who presides in the councils of nations, and whose providential aids can supply every human defect, that His benediction may consecrate to the liberties and happiness of the people of the United States a government instituted by themselves for these essential purposes, and may enable every instrument employed in its administration to execute with success the functions allotted to His charge. In tendering this homage to the Great Author of every public and private good, I assure myself that it expresses your sentiments not less than my own, nor those of my fellow-citizens at large less than either. No people can be bound to acknowledge and adore the Invisible Hand which conducts the affairs of men more than those of the United States.

It was this same allegiance to the recognition of the Higher Power which inspired the statement in the Declaration of Independence that men were "endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights." Being conferred by the Creator, those rights were inalienable by the government about to be instituted which should derive its just powers from the consent of the governed, and which must not invade those rights conferred by the Higher One. George Washington, in the first proclamation of a national thanksgiving, described those obligations which were superior to state restrictions:

It is the duty of all nations to acknowledge the providence of Almighty God, to obey His will, to be grateful for His benefits, and humbly to implore His protection and favor.

Yet the Father of His Country, who declared in specific terms his highest allegiance "to the great Lord and Ruler of Nations," and all those who followed in his footsteps, would be, by the terms of the quoted prediction of what "must come" in Utah, barred from the privilege of being among the State's lawmakers, were they here today and entertained the sentiment they expressed; when they wielded the chief magistracy of the Republic.

This higher allegiance is purely a religious matter. The framers of our national Constitution recognized this. They recognized that the state which gained its powers from the consent of the governed must not claim from the people the allegiance which belonged to God as the supreme being; they were content with having for the state that allegiance which was "under Divine blessing." They knew that it was the inalienable right of the citizen to give his highest allegiance to God; they knew this, and that if ever the state should attempt to reverse the conditions the Republic would be no more; they knew this, and provided in the original Constitution that the state should be forever barred from that course. Said they:

No religious test shall ever be required as a qualification to any office or public trust under the United States.

It is a religious test to inquire, as a qualification for any duty of citizenship, into the allegiance any man owes to his God. If a man "would rather be a doorkeeper in the house of the Lord than President of the United States," as one legislator paraphrased the old saying yesterday, he has the inalienable right to his choice, and the Constitution protects him therein, retaining for him all his privileges of citizenship.

And be it distinctly understood that all this does not imply that there shall be any domination of the state by the church; but it does say that there are church matters, religious affairs, with which the state must not interfere, and one of these is man's allegiance to Deity as the One who is "above all." As expressed by Thomas Jefferson in an inaugural address:

In matters of religion I have considered that its free exercise is placed by the Constitution independent of the powers of the general government. I have therefore undertaken on no occasion to prescribe the religious exercises suited to it, but have left them, as the Constitution found them, under the direction and discipline of the church or state authorities acknowledged by the several religious societies.

As to the religious view of allegiance to Deity, it is a cardinal principle of Mormonism, the idea being the central one of religion in all the civilized world, that God is "the great, matchless, governing and supreme power over all things." A denial of the right of Latter-day Saints to give their highest allegiance to that Power is a denial of a fundamental principle of Mormonism, as well as subversive of the liberty given in the national Constitution. The Divine law that has been held pre-eminent in all ages, from the transgression to the Garden to the present day, is the same that was thundered forth on Mount Sinai, "Thou shalt have no other gods before Me;" and every nation that has sought to contravene that law has gone down before its immutability.

In conclusion, the NEWS will venture its opinion that the prediction quoted never will be verified; that there never will come a time when those of every religion in this State who give their highest, sublimest, most devoted allegiance to the God of