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BRIGHAM YOUNG,
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"MORMON" ENTERPRISE AND AGGRESSION.

THE Chicago Inter-Ocean is much exercised over the extension of Mormon influence into Idaho, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona, complaining that the "Mormon" church "manifests an aggressive and hostile spirit toward our institutions," and argues as follows:

"The fact that the spirit of Mormonism is enterprising and aggressive, reaching out always after power, and guided by shrewdness and cunning, makes it no mean antagonist in these Territories that are to become States. As the Mormons encourage an alien element in our civilization, and seek all considerations for the State in loyalty to their peculiar religious system, they must be resisted as other alien elements have been resisted and conquered."

Is it a crime for a church to be "enterprising" in spirit? If so all the ecclesiastical organizations in Christendom that show any signs of activity must be condemned. Has not the so-called "Mormon" Church as much right to proselyte as any other religious body? Are not its numbers equally entitled with the votaries of any of the numerous sects, to settle in any part of the United States that suits them, provided they do not violate the rights of others? Is "Mormonism" any more "aggressive" than "Methodism"? Many of the live preachers of the latter, boast of the aggressive nature and methods of their society, and consider it a sign of force and vigor. And for "reaching out after power," look at the efforts and success of the Methodists and the Catholics in this direction, and see where lies the greatest danger on this account if any there be.

The gathering of the Saints from the various nations of the earth is part of the work required of the Elders of this Church, and, as they believe without doubt, is a commandment to them from the Almighty. They not only preach the gospel of spiritual salvation but also of temporal redemption to the struggling laborers of the Old World, and by their enterprise point the way and assist those who embrace the faith to emigrate to the newly opened regions of the Rocky Mountains. Thus the Territories above named are becoming settled by a hard-working, thrifty and peace-loving class of citizens, who make the very best kind of material for a stable and well-thriving population, and are the kind of human elements necessary to the development of the pastoral, agricultural and manufacturing interests of those incipient States.

Our "aggressiveness" is merely of the argumentative, didactic, proselyting order. In any other respect we have ever been on the defensive. We do not attack any person, community or government. We assail what we believe to be error, as we have the right to do, and in the exercise of this right we have been the objects of the wrath of our doctrinal opponents, with whom all the physical and unlawful "aggression" that has marked our course from the beginning has originated. We make no war on men or the rights of men; we do not think it is necessary for us to submit without resistance to those who make war upon us and upon our rights; and such resistance cannot properly be called aggression.

Neither do we "encourage an alien element in our civilization." On the contrary, we endeavor to convert all the alien element of our gathered converts into material for the support of the government, to make them citizens of our common country and interested components of its political institutions. If there is any "alien element" among us it is the fault, not of the "Mormons," but of their enemies, who interpose every possible barrier in the way of the naturalization of "Mormon" applicants for citizenship, and even try to procure the disfranchisement of those already endowed with its rights and privileges.

What is the nature of the resistance which the Inter-Ocean intimates must be exercised towards the "Mormons" by the surrounding Territories? We have no reason to object against anything of that character that is lawful and right. But those who accuse us of aggressiveness are the first to assume an attitude of hostility or to stir up others to attack us. No one has ever been able to show wherein we have violated the rights of others; why, then, should they incite violence toward us? We are branded with the epithet of "lawless," but it has never been shown that we have broken any law save one, and that a statute framed intentionally against an integral part of our religious creed. But under the pretence of forcing us to abandon that part of our faith, the law has been frequently broken by our enemies, and even now the Inter-Ocean, while complaining of our "aggressiveness," "hostility" and support of an "alien element," is covertly advising these very things in our neighbors, to prevent our extension into and settlement of surrounding Territories, which are in pressing need of just such a population as we are providing them with.

To "resist and conquer" our people, or their settlement upon the public domain under the land laws of the United States, would be not only unrightfully aggressive, but an "alien element in our civilization;" for the genius of our institutions is favorable to colonization and the conversion of the wilderness into habitable places, and our government seeks to aid and support the prospective or actual citizen in the acquisition of a permanent homestead, especially in the desert regions of the Great West.

And we remind the Inter-Ocean that the institutions, laws, constitution and government of this country are ours, and not the private property of any party, sect or paper. And if fair play was given and all journalistic and priestly misrepresentations were discarded, the "Mormons" could establish quite as good a record for loyalty, order, peace, subordination to good government and submission to constitutional enactments as any community, religious, secular or political in the United States, not excepting the "aggressive" party of which that paper is so radical a representative.

COLLECTION OF THE TAX ON CO-OPERATIVE ORDERS.

LAST Fall many of the co-operative stores and a few individuals were required by the Collector of Internal Revenue to make return for the purpose of taxation, by reason of section 19, Act of February 8, 1875, of the amount of notes used for circulation and paid out by them. Under this head the orders they had issued payable in merchandise were listed, and forwarded to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for assessment in December last. Thereupon Z. C. M. I. of this city and the Brigham City Co-operative Mercantile and Manufacturing Association employed counsel to resist the assessment of the tax, on the ground that these orders were liable to it. They had a hearing before the Commissioner, but questions arising as to the facts of their use, time was given to take testimony touching that point. Meanwhile the entire list awaited the result of a further hearing on the law as applicable to the state of facts established by the testimony.

The Collector informs us that by last night's mail he received back the list with the tax assessed, also the penalty of 50 per cent. for not making return at the proper time, on the amount of such orders issued or paid out during the six months ending November 30, 1877, accompanied by a letter, saying: "These assessments were made so that no question could arise, as to the validity of the assessment, by reason of the 15 months' limitation; subsequent periods are still under consideration."

By this the Collector understands that the Commissioner has not yet decided the main question—as to the liability of these notes to the tax of ten per cent., but was obliged to assess for the period to save the possible rights of the Government, because the assessment could no longer be postponed without becoming outlawed. Having been assessed the Collector says the taxes must be paid within ten days, and he has sent out the usual demands for assessed taxes according to law.

Should the Commissioner decide upon full argument that the notes are not liable, or should it be taken into the courts and be so held by them, the money will be refunded. For taxes the assessment of which is barred by the 15 months' limitation—see Sec. 3182 U. S. Revised Statutes. The only recourse of the government is to sue for them.

This explanation has been furnished by the Collector, with the request to publish as of interest to those who are liable on this account, or who are believed to be liable by the Internal Revenue office.

We presume that the parties notified will take the precaution of obtaining competent legal advice before taking any action in the premises. We have no doubt that the assessment of this tax is invalid and we fully believe that it will eventually be so declared. The tax was undoubtedly intended to be levied on notes issued by banks and other corporations, or by firms or individuals, for circulation, and redeemable in money, and the orders now assessed are not of this nature and character.

The enforced collection of the amounts assessed, with the penalties, is very arbitrary, although it may be in accordance with the letter of the law, and money once in the United States Treasury is very difficult of redemption. Still we hope for final justice, and believe that it will be obtained. The matter now pending before the Commissioner is in good hands, and if it does not reach a favorable issue with him will doubtless be taken into the courts.

BY TELEGRAPH.

THE WESTERN UNION TELEGRAPH LINE.
FORTY-SIXTH CONGRESS.

EXTRA SESSION.

SENATE.

Conclusion of the debate last night.

WASHINGTON, 24.—Blaine read from the decision of the Speaker of the House at the time the Potter resolution was introduced to show that the investigation involved the occupancy of the presidential chair.

Hill inquired whether any law had been passed subsequent to the electoral commission law which gave parties the right to legally test the question of the Presidency. Blaine replied, the entire Potter resolution from its beginning to its conclusion did not mention it.

Hill said the Potter resolution was simply to obtain testimony in relation to the subject. Would the senator say that the appointment of a committee for this purpose was revolutionary?

Blaine-The Speaker stated it involved the rightful occupancy of the presidential chair. Did you want the evidence to be obtained by the Potter committee to be used by the Supreme Court?

Hill-I said no such thing. Blaine-How does the senator connect the Potter committee proceedings with the electoral bill? I maintain that, being entirely outside of the electoral commission, the resolution was grossly and blatantly revolutionary from beginning to end.

Hill-I have asked a question twice. Instead of answering mine, he refuses, and asks me a question. My question is first in order. My question is, you charge revolutionaries on the democratic party and say it is manifested in the appointment of the Potter committee. I ask, do you hold that the appointment of a committee to

make investigation is a revolutionary movement? Blaine-The reason for the appointment of the Potter committee as construed by the Speaker of the House was revolutionary. Hill-Will you say that the appointment of a committee of investigation by the House is revolutionary? Blaine-The committee, as constituted by the Speaker, was revolutionary.

Hill-Is the appointment of a committee revolutionary? Blaine-Don't be childish. Hill-Was your resolution for the appointment of the Teller committee revolutionary? Blaine-No. We wanted to find out how persons had been deprived of their rights. I assume that the object of the electoral bill was that if any wrong was done through might be a judicial remedy. That it contemplated only a judicial action before the courts. The democratic party and friends of Tilden never wanted a revolutionary organ, a committee which had no connection with it. The democrats had startling witnesses, and had been coaching them in order that the country might be treated by their revelation, but it did not pan out well. It rather missed fire, and notwithstanding the decision of the Speaker as to the constitutionality of the resolution, which under his construction, meant revolution, the democrats resolved subsequently that it did not mean any such thing.

Wallace offered a resolution declaring John C. Burch elected clerk of the Senate.

Conkling said he would like to record a vote for the present competent, faithful and accomplished secretary, and he thought every republican would be glad to do so. He had hopes that senators not republican would be glad to do so, because some of them understood party efficiency and honesty in civil service to mean what he meant, namely the selection of not a scoundrel, but an honest man, not a fool, but a man of sense, not a pretender, a sniveler, but a man of efficiency, so that when they had brought such a man into office, they should keep him there; when they had a man of a character he should not be removed to make place for some favorite or party claimant. He moved to strike out the name John C. Burch and substitute that of George G. Gorham.

Eaton said the senator could not be aware of the full scope of his language. He said he wanted to vote for an honest man, rather than a scoundrel. That Mr. Gorham is competent and a man of character they all agreed, but they did not want it to be inferred that because they did not reject Gorham, they selected a man who was a scoundrel and incompetent. The resolution declaring Burch elected secretary was then taken up. Burch was then sworn into office, the Vice-President administering the modified oath and also the duties that he would discharge his duties to the best of his knowledge and ability.

The Vice-President then laid before the Senate the final report of the retiring secretary.

Wallace offered a resolution declaring Richard J. Bright, elected sergeant-at-arms. Adopted. After rejecting an amendment, offered by Anthony to substitute the name of the incumbent John R. French. Yeas 23, nays 39, a party vote.

Wallace submitted a resolution declaring Z. P. B. Singer elected chief clerk of the Senate.

Anthony moved the substitution of the name of Wm. E. Spencer, in lieu of Burch. Rejected, yeas 37, nays 38, and the resolution was adopted.

Wallace then submitted a resolution declaring Henry B. Peyton elected executive clerk. Anthony moved the substitution of the name of the incumbent, James H. Young. Disagreed to, yeas 25, nays 26, and the resolution was adopted.

Wallace offered a resolution declaring elected J. G. Bullock, vice Dr. Sunderland incumbent. Adopted in same way.

In the Senate, to-day, Davis introduced a joint resolution for a special committee to consider the best means of promoting agriculture.

The resolution of House was taken up, declaring unconstitutional and revolutionary the democratic programme of legislation announced by Davis at the close of the late Congress.

Adjourning.

HOUSE.
WASHINGTON, 24.—Harris and Cox asked leave to introduce resolutions, but confessed they would object to the introduction of anything, unless it had reference to the appropriation bill. Adjourning.

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