

and misrepresentation of other societies as Christian as themselves, when engaged in religious controversy.

It is not beyond recollection that a young man in this Christian nation had faith enough in God when converted to religion, to ask of Him which of the many churches he should join, and when he received answer, and proclaimed it to the world, that he was to join none of them as being the Church of Christ, a storm of persecution arose from these pious, religious leaders that never ceased while he lived, and the few who showed favor to the young man and befriended him, were made sharers with him of the same demoniac hate.

This was in our land of religious liberty, where no law interfered with a man's faith in God, and where no court was supposed to tell men how or what they should worship.

Some ten years since, the crimes committed in one year by ministers, and published in the public papers, were gathered by one man to the number of 261, and these were presumed to be not one-tenth of the actual number perpetrated by the Christian clergy of our nation. These crimes were committed by 202 preachers, who were convicted in the courts and their cases published. This possibly may be the reason why the rev. gentleman of this city makes reference to the courts being competent to decide upon the Christianity of the nation bearing such fruits of righteousness, in which it is alleged that the clergy, as a class, commit more crime in proportion to numbers than any other.

Other instances may be considered; such, for instance, as an internal fratricidal war of years' duration—the despoiling of nearly one-third of the nation by robbery, and by expending millions of money in the noble Christian work of destroying hundreds of thousands of lives and leaving millions of sorrowing wives, children and friends whose cries have ascended to heaven while mourning their loss. Then there is the haughty pride and arrogance that reigns supreme throughout the land in the midst of affluence, while the despised, neglected, starving poor are eking out a miserable existence with none to pity, and to whom death would be a welcome relief. All these, with the daily crimes committed—which are enough to “make the angels weep”—might be put in the scales and weighed in contrast with our nation's excellence, and then let that God, who will not look upon sin with any degree of allowance, instead of the nation's court, decide by the standard of righteousness upon the nation's Christianity.

While this revolting condition of things exhibits a vast amount of hypocrisy and downright wickedness, we know the nation has a vast number of devout worshippers who reverence God and recognize the mission of Jesus Christ in its true significance so far as their knowledge enables them to comprehend the truth as through Him revealed. These may be considered as the salt of the earth, by virtue of whose influence many may be saved.

Courts may by investigation know something about men's crimes, but their knowledge of men's faith and religion is too trifling to pass a reliable judgment that will secure the endorsement of Christ to their decision.

Christianity is not a matter of mass conventions to be determined by majorities, but is individual property, the value of which can only be appreciated by its possessor. B. W. R.

DIAZ PRESIDENT OF MEXICO.

A DISPATCH from the city of Mexico states that on the 29th inst. Porfirio Diaz was formally declared President of Mexico for the ensuing four years, beginning December 1st. Diaz is certainly the greatest man of the present day in his own country. His record as a statesman, a soldier and patriot is honorable, enviable and noble.

Mexico achieved her independence in 1821. At that time Iturbide tried to set up an empire. The first republic was established, and the first constitution adopted in October, 1824. Two parties, the Centralists and Federalists, then prevailed. The former advocated Spanish interests, the latter liberalism. The struggles of these parties kept the country in a state of civil war for many years. During the war with the United States factionism was for a time suppressed. At the close of this, two parties again appeared, Conservatives and Liberals. The former represented the church and the aristocracy, the latter the advocates of religious freedom and liberal government.

In 1857 the Liberals succeeded in adopting a new constitution, which is now in force. Under it Comonfort and Juarez were elected President and Vice-President. Comonfort developed into a dictator, and was forced to fly the country. Juarez then assumed executive power. The Conservatives, under Miramon, inaugurated civil war, which lasted for three years. Juarez proclaimed the separation of church and state, freedom of opinion, liberty of worship, suppression of monasteries, and confiscation of church property. In December, 1859, the Conservatives were completely subdued, and Juarez was elected president in 1860.

The coalition forces of England, Spain and France landed at Vera Cruz early in 1861. Part of the Conservatives took sides with them, but the remainder joined the Liberals in resisting the invaders. Spain and England became ashamed of their action and withdrew. France remained in the field. It was at the battle of Puebla, May 5th, 1862, that General Diaz distinguished himself against the French, who were defeated. In 1863 another battle was fought; Diaz was captured by the French, but escaped. Juarez and his cabinet retired to Paso del Norte. The French took possession of Mexico, and proclaimed Maximilian Emperor.

Meantime Diaz was not idle. He assumed the leadership of his people against the invaders, and fought at every point, until he carried by storm Puebla, a Maximilian stronghold, in 1867. Shortly after, the City of Mexico surrendered to Diaz. This ended French rule, Juarez was elected President. Four years after he was re-elected, it is said, by an ajr means. A revolution occurred, in which Diaz figured. Juarez died in 1872 and peace was restored. Lerdo de Tejada succeeded him.

In 1876 a revolution occurred again, the partisans of Diaz and Lerdo taking part. Diaz escaped to New

Orleans, but returned soon after to Mexico, raised an army and drove Lerdo out of the country. Diaz was elected President in 1877, and if we remember aright is now entering on his fourth term as President of the Mexican Republic. The advance which that country has made since 1877 is marvelous. The Garza revolution was said to be inspired by the Catholic Church for the removal of Diaz, but the Diaz people themselves deny this, and say it was only the folly and rashness of a few adventurers in politics.

OUR CRITICISM OF THE UTAH COMMISSION.

THE “Liberal” organ is viciously angry again because we have exposed the perfidy of the Utah Commission in their misleading official report. It calls names with all its old malignity, and evades the points at issue with its accustomed shiftiness. It does not matter though. The public have become familiar with its methods and epithets which might mean something in a respectable paper, but are regarded as so much expletive and nothing more when they are voided by the *Tribune*.

Calling the DESERET NEWS a liar, of any age or description, will not set aside the facts. They are, that the Commissioners have done their utmost to impress upon the government and the country the idea that new polygamous marriages are being contracted, and hundreds of cases of unlawful association are occurring in Utah in the face of the manifesto. That they have endeavored to fortify these false charges, preferred in such a way as to escape criminal responsibility for making them, by figures which misrepresent the truth. That they have endeavored to besmirch gentlemen who have given evidence of the wrong-doing of the Commission, and have officially denied facts that are well known and susceptible of positive proof. That they have adopted the methods and the arts of the cheap pettifogger and political trickster. And that all we have shown up against them is supported by their official report.

The court records are the best evidence of our statements in regard to the cases which the Commissioners have tabulated. They will substantiate all that we have urged in this respect. No billingagate of the *Tribune's* will wipe them out or reconcile them with the charges of the Commissioners. The answer to their query of what object they could have in view in narrating falsehoods, is in their evident desire to keep hold of their soft seats and their lucrative salaries, to which they cling as tenaciously as though the emoluments had not been cut down to a clerk's stipend.

They cannot escape the criticism which their paltry and untruthful effort will provoke when the truth is made clear, and we do not propose to be silent when it is necessary to expose them. We certainly will not be deterred from doing anything that appears to be our duty, because it provokes the “Liberal” organ to the use of language which exhibits its naturally brutal and mendacious disposition.