

sage of anything that might not favor the doctrine of the perpetual virginity of Mary. 1 John v: 7: "For there are three that bear record in heaven—the Father, the Word and the Holy Ghost; and these three are one," is found in no MSS. earlier than the fifteenth century, and is wanting in all the ancient versions except the Latin, and is therefore now omitted by all the best critics, except Mill and Bengel. The passage was evidently forged in favor of the Athanasian Tri-unity doctrine.

Various readings of these kinds amount to many thousands in all. It will be seen that they are, as a rule, very slight and easily accounted for. The worst manuscript ever written leaves the great fundamental truths as they were taught by inspired men; yet perfection, as to the letter, there is not; and no skill, no research, no faithfulness can ever restore the identical handwritings that have been lost. It is true that all evidence obtained proves that our Bibles are very nearly identical with the originals, but nearer than that we cannot come. There are passages which will probably never be restored to their original reading. Others have the evidence so nearly equal on both sides that it will always be at the option of the reader to decide which in his judgment is the true one.

If these indisputable facts be considered well, the necessity of a direct revelation from God, as the beginning of the millennial dispensation, will at once appear. We have come to the period in our age that unless God himself again has spoken, no absolute certainty in many important points can be reached. Think of the situation! What can a world without inspired prophets and without even the original documents from God do towards the ushering in of the Kingdom of God? Is it not self-evident to every honest thinking mind that the world today is as helpless in its own resources as were the Jews at the time of the coming of Christ, when they had been left without prophets (although not without copies of the ancient sacred writings) for a space of about four hundred years? Is there any other remedy for such a helpless condition than revelation? Let the honest answer.

One more remark: When all the facts here pointed out have been duly considered, I trust it will appear perfectly clear that the words with which this paper opens, "We believe the Bible to be the Word of God, as far as it is translated correctly," are dictated by the Spirit of Truth and penned by one who was filled with that Spirit.

J. M. S.

DUTIES OF ELECTORS.

From the recent convention reports which have appeared in the News, I find there is still a great lack of appreciation as to the importance of taking an active part in the administration of public affairs. This apathy may no doubt be attributed to a want of individual in-

terest in affairs beyond the limits of the immediate pursuits or avocations of daily life in which the masses of the people are so thoroughly absorbed.

With most persons, the mind once aroused to a sense of duty will, in vindication of its own consciousness, and for its own peace, demand the performance thereof. An apparent duty neglected is a wrong committed.

In view of this fact, permit me to express, in a comprehensive way, my idea of the citizen who will not interest himself in public matters sufficiently to induce him to express his wish or to exercise his right in determining the administration of the government to which he belongs, and of which he himself is an essential part. To my mind, such a man is both immoral and a traitor to the government from which he demands protection.

This may be considered a very strong if not a harsh way of stating the case, if indeed it be a fact. Is it possible that immorality attaches to one's character by simply refusing to go to the polls and casting one's vote on election day? I ask what is morality? In humanity it is an affirmative, a positive, and not a negative quality. Morality consists of acts that are in duty faithfully performed, that are in harmony with consciousness so that our moral judgments approve them, that are evidence in our favor and entitle us to a reward, if no more than the peace of an approving conscience. Morality is not evidenced by the non-doing of an act. There may be certain fears which keep men from doing a bad act—such as the certainty of punishment or other unfavorable conditions, when the motive is really in their hearts and minds, if the act could be done without their suffering the penalty attached to wrong doing. Non-action is not evidence of moral purpose; it is in the act performed that moral excellence is found.

Every citizen of a democratic government is a part of the vital force by which a healthy administration is maintained, and a man contributes to that end only when he goes to the polls and casts his ballot for good men to hold the reins of government. No one can neglect this duty without involving serious consequences to himself and others. Every citizen is a part of the government, and should do his part toward maintaining it. He cannot withhold his mite of support when its perversion and overthrow are threatened by an enemy. By his ballot it is determined whether his integrity shall be preserved or not, and he cannot withhold it without being guilty of criminal neglect. The plea of non-action is his assured condemnation. The marked features of the traitor are discoverable when he wilfully withholds that act by which alone life may be preserved, and with that life protection, prosperity, and happiness assured.

The duty here imposed upon the citizen, one which he has sworn to discharge, is imperative and one

which must not be neglected or evaded for any individual policy or consideration. Morality in this as in all other conditions of life consists in doing what should be done. An immorality which if indulged in will surely lead to treachery is strongly attached to that individual who in an emergency will not do his duty toward his country in maintaining a righteous administration of government. Every citizen's voice is supposed to be heard in the ballot which he casts, and which helps to determine his country's weal or woe. Duty demands that every one shall see that his voice is for the good and the right, so that a righteous rule may bring peace and happiness to the people, and cause to cease the mourning which comes from a wicked rule.

I am satisfied that there are no people in the land more ready and willing to do their duty than the inhabitants of Utah, the majority of whom constitute a hard-working and farming community; not imbued with the tricks and knavery of the party politician, which they never need learn for practical purposes, but when made truly sensible of the importance of political duties they will arise in the majesty of their union, and, with one voice echoing throughout the land, declare that right and righteousness is their motto in all matters affecting the good of humanity.

In view of more thoroughly instructing the people in these important affairs, I have looked with favor upon the proposition which appeared in the form of a resolution by one of the conventions: "That the territorial central committee be asked to take under consideration the advisability of forming people's political clubs, for the purpose of dispensing political information and a knowledge of the principles of government among the citizens." May they act with creditable zeal and well directed energy in their political duties, and so become better qualified for the responsibilities of government under a home rule administration, in accord with State sovereignty.

S. W. R.

SALT LAKE CITY, July 17, 1889.

PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

Following is an oration recently delivered before the Payson, Utah County, Literary Club, by Jedediah Taylor:

Friends and fellow citizens: I am pleased to greet you this evening as associates in and citizens of our great Republic. We are representatives and advocates of freedom, and I am proud to be able to say our government is a grand and glorious one. From her possessions in America forty-eight territories have been carved, thirty-eight of which are now enjoying the privilege of Statehood, leaving only ten which have not become sufficiently strong to throw off their swaddling-cloths and enjoy the rights of State government.

Our Territory, with a population