

life and source of power, neither can they be touched by acts of Congress or decisions of courts.

Suppose the property now in litigation were confiscated today, instead of being held for the decision of the court of last resort. Is there any Latter-day Saint who would feel any different than he does at present? Would he have any loss of faith in the principles he holds to be divine? Any less confidence in God and the ultimate triumph of right? Any less food, clothing, air, water, sunshine, health, or vigor? Not at all. He might have less belief in the justice of legal tribunals, less respect for a power that rules in unrighteousness, less admiration for a nation that permits such a flagrant wrong. But his religion would be, if anything different, more dear to him than ever, and his determination would be more fixed and firm to cleave to it through evil and good report, through life and death.

It is the greatest folly in the world for legislators, lawyers, preachers and editors to imagine that any such raids upon the property of a body of religious worshippers will turn them from a principle, a position, a creed or a custom which they hold to be right. It is a wrong process in and of itself and will be an utter and complete failure as to the purpose designed. It must be so in the very nature of things.

Let reformers bring on their strong reasons, shed their great light, exhibit their superior views and manifest their exalted wisdom, that the benighted "Mormons" may behold and be converted. But do not think that rack or thumbscrew, prison or gibbet, robbery or confiscation will ever convince a soul of the error of his ways, or compel a convert to any system under the sun to forswear his faith or bow down at the dictation of his oppressors.

#### THE UTAH COMMISSIONERS' MAJORITY REPORT.

We have refrained from commenting on the Report of the majority of the Utah Commission as condensed in the Associated Press dispatches, because errors so frequently occur in them when Utah affairs are the subject. Now the report is published in full and we have a better opportunity to understand it.

The majority report is quite voluminous, and the first part is composed of quotations from the report of 1887 and remarks repeating its recommendations on the question of Statehood for Utah. The Utah Commission, or a majority of that body, have been noted from the beginning for their assumption of powers that do not belong to them, and for intruding their advice and recommendations to Congress unasked and entirely outside of the sphere of their office. The Supreme Court of the United States sat upon them heavily in the decision on the appeal cases as to the right of certain persons to vote, and the assumption by the Commission of powers that did not belong to them was clearly set forth.

They have no more to do with the question of Statehood for Utah than they legally had with the issuing of "orders" and "rulings" for which they were rebuked by the Supreme Court. Of course they are nervous over the possibility of Utah's admission, because that would end their official career and cut off the fat salaries for the nearest thing to a sinecure in the patronage of the government. But modesty would have suggested that it would be better not to expose that anxiety so openly, when the question is entirely out of their province except as it is likely to affect them personally and financially. On this matter the majority are not content with gratuitously thrusting forth their own views, but actually report to the Secretary of the Interior what the committees on Territories of the two Houses of Congress have done concerning it. Last year they embodied in their report the opinions of certain religious sects on the subject.

They repeat their former advice that the Governor be empowered to appoint the following officers who are now elected by the people: "Selectmen, clerks, assessors, recorders and superintendents of public schools." This is very generous, republican and consistent, of course, and the people of Utah ought to feel corresponding respect for these self-appointed advisers of the government.

Considerable space is taken up with remarks on the movement of the "Mormon Church" to establish schools under its own auspices; and the falsehood is set forth that the object of this is to destroy "the public school system of Utah." No part of the report has been commented upon by the press of the country so much as this. Yet everybody here knows that this is not the purpose of the promoters of off-Church schools, which are more particularly for advanced pupils. They have no primary department, the District Schools being considered sufficient for that purpose. Who established the District Schools but the "Mormons?" Who provided for their support by taxation but the "Mormons?" Who built the school houses and arranged that they should be the property of the School Districts but the "Mormons?"

The majority report gives no statistics of these School Districts which are secular and public, but goes into details and figures about the Episcopal, Presbyterian, Methodist, Baptist, Catholic, Congregational and Lutheran schools which are sectarian and

private. According to these there are 90 denominational schools in Utah with 7,422 scholars. These have been established for the avowed purpose of drawing away pupils from the District Schools, and yet the Utah Commission see no reason to point out the danger that they, "if allowed to succeed, will prove destructive of the public-school system of Utah." If "Mormon" Church schools are to be condemned because of this alleged danger, why should these sectarian church schools be applauded when they are intended for that purpose?

This false cry of danger to the public-school system is made an excuse for clothing the Executive with the improper power to appoint all the county superintendents of schools. The object is evil and anti-republican, the alleged reason for it is groundless and deceptive.

Of a similar character is the charge they make that the Governor was by the Legislature "denied the right to exercise his legal authority," that is, "to appoint the Territorial Treasurer, Auditor and other officers." The men who sign this misleading report knew as well as anybody that this statement is doubly untrue. In the first place the Governor is not authorized to "appoint" those officers, no matter what may be the full force of Section Seven of the Organic Act. He is there authorized simply to "nominate" certain officers, but can only "appoint" them with "the advice and consent of the Council" of the Legislature. In the second place, the Council never interfered with his right to nominate, but they declined to appoint his nominees as they had the undisputed right to do under the law. And the Commissioners know that a case is in litigation before the Supreme Court of the United States to determine whether or not these very officers are elective by the people under a Territorial statute. They do not mention this fact, which they certainly would have done if they intended to treat the subject with the faintest shadow of fairness.

Another piece of gross misrepresentation is the statement concerning "a young clerk of Salt Lake City, convicted of polygamy" that, "while he was yet in prison he was made president of Box Elder Stake, one of the largest and most important in Utah, excepting Salt Lake, a stake to the people of which he was a stranger." How truthful these three Commissioners are in their report may be determined in the light of these facts: The young man was not appointed "while he was yet in prison." Box Elder is not "one of the largest and most important stakes in Utah, excepting Salt Lake," and he was not "a stranger" to the people of that Stake. When he received his appointment he was, through the pardon of the President of the United States and the circumstances existing at the time, a free man and a citizen, and eligible as a voter and officeholder under the law. What, then, was in the way of his appointment to an ecclesiastical office, with the appointment to which the civil law has nothing to do? And why should these Commissioners strain a point to misrepresent the facts in the case? They speak of this appointment as a "reward," when there is no such thing in the "Mormon" Church as offices for a "reward," but only as an obligation and a service requiring arduous labor and responsibility.

The acts of the Legislature on the marriage question are given with more fairness, but a strenuous effort is made to cast doubt as to whether they will be "followed in good faith." They also speak of twenty-nine names reported to them of males whom the registrars "have good reason to believe have entered into polygamy" since June, 1887. "Four of these cases," they say, "are classed as doubtful." This would imply that the other twenty-five were not doubtful. The answer to this disingenuous statement is in the minority report of Commissioners Carlson and McClelland, who show that "there has been only one indictment found up to this time for a polygamous marriage alleged to have occurred since the 3rd of March, 1887." If there were twenty-five cases not "doubtful," would there be any less than twenty-five indictments?

The term "exclusive occupancy" is repeatedly used in regard to the "Mormons" and the larger part of the Territory, and this, with accompanying remarks, is evidently intended to convey the false impression that non-"Mormons" are excluded from occupancy of the soil. "The disposition of the 'Mormon' people to antagonize the laws of Congress" is another term calculated to mislead, as though this was the attitude of the whole body of the "Mormons." All this shows a desire on the part of the majority of the Commission to stimulate and increase public prejudice and keep up the erroneous impression that prevails about the people of Utah. In their concluding remarks they argue that "until a majority believe in the enforcement of the laws, then so long should the laws be enforced." That is the point in view of these persons. They italicize the word *believe*. It is the faith of the "Mormons" which they and their tribe desire to extirpate by force of law, and for this belief they would deprive the "Mormons" of the commonest rights of American citizens.

The majority report is more a collection of anti-"Mormon" opinions than a statement of the doings of Commissioners. It would be just the thing as an article in some anti-"Mormon" journal. But when the section of the

Edmonds act which created the Utah Commission and defined its duties is read, and this so-called "Report" is examined, a candid person is led to wonder what relevancy there is in the latter to the former, and why the authors, or signers, did not work in something about Utah notions on the tariff, the state of the lead market, the price of wool, and the absorbing question of sewerage for Main Street.

There is one conclusion they arrive at which we will mention and then bring this review to a conclusion. It is this: "If the Mormon problem is not settled until this Territory is filled by non-Mormon immigration the end is not near." This is a pretty shrewd opinion, but will afford only cold comfort to the class for whom the three Commissioners speak, and in whose interest they have fabricated their "Report." As an account of their official acts it is an exaggerated absurdity; all that relates to them is contained in two small paragraphs on page eight. As an argument to still further oppress the majority of the people of Utah, who have broken no law, it is strained, unjust and largely untrue in word and in spirit. But as a plea for a continuation of their office and its emoluments it is a huge and unmistakable success.

#### CURRENT TOPICS IN EUROPE.

Austrian Manoeuvres.—Tyrolean Soldiers.—Changes in Modern Warfare.—French Jokes.—England's Preparations.—Aosta's Marriage.—Turkey's Finances.—Mohammedan Lethargy.—Rome's Reception.

The military manoeuvres of Austrian troops, which have taken place near Vienna, have been watched with interest, not merely by Austrians, but by other European nations as well.

It would be difficult to come across a finer set of men than those comprised in the regiments from Styria, Carinthia, Carniola and Salzburg. The Tyrolese convey the impression of being singularly brave and resolute. They are marksmen true, and evidently there is the stuff of many a William Tell in the mountains of the Tyrol. This is the cradle of the best Austrian marksmen, and to be a crack shot in these parts is to be an ideal hero. As a consequence the Emperor and Austrian government have long been well disposed toward these hardy mountaineers.

In the American civil (or uncivil) war and in the Franco-Prussian war the Austrian military authorities were by no means idle observers. As a consequence military science has made rapid strides in Austria. New and terrible weapons and explosives have been devised and perfected. Invisible forts, disappearing cannons, quick-firing and machine guns, and magazine rifles of great range and marvelous accuracy, are some of the new forces with which the enemies of Austria will have to contend, also steel shells charged with melinite and other high explosives, capable not merely of mowing down forests but likewise of destroying heavy walls and earthworks. It is not likely that future wars will furnish much opportunity for maneuvering men in columns or in close formation in the presence of an enemy. If the Russian cavalry at Balaklava could not withstand the Ninety-third's "thin red line" and mule-loaders, what chance would the finest horsemen in the world have in a charge against even a skirmish line armed with magazine rifles? Germany lost nearly seven thousand of her best troops in a quarter of an hour at Privat, through sending them forward in solid masses against the French chassepots. The Germans quickly corrected their error, and in subsequent battles fought in more open order, a formation now become far more imperative owing to the adoption of magazine rifles in continental armies. To some extent it is this change in the modes and mechanism of modern warfare that has caused that widespread feeling of insecurity which prevails among many European nations and called forth those remarkable articles published in the British journals.

In regard to naval warfare, Lord Charles Beletford, on September 17th, made some remarkable statements. He said—"Steam and speed—these are the dominant factors in the naval warfare of the future. Within five minutes of the declaration of war, the swiftest and most powerful ships in the navy ought to be launched like thunder-bolts against the weak points of the enemy." Hitherto it has been considered that the British fleet was able to cope with the fleets of any two allied nations. This was true in the days of Nelson, when commerce was a comparative luxury which Britons could dispense with; for then they were fed from the products of their fields. Today one half the people of England would absolutely have no bread to eat, but for the food that comes in over the sea. No doubt the British fleet could meet that of France and come off victorious, but that is precisely what is not permitted, since the British fleet is scattered to all parts of the world, protecting the Colonies and commerce. No enemy would be mad enough to invade Britain unless he had command of the sea; and if he had command of the sea would he risk an invasion when he might compel submission by ruining our commerce? Lord Wolseley, England's favorite General says, "Much of our military drill is useless, though very pretty in Hyde Park and

amusing to nurse maids." From these expressions it is evident that important changes are pending.

The wicked (?) infidels of Paris are just now making jokes at the expense of Pope Leo XIII and the twenty thousand dollars license he has issued for the Duke of Aosta to marry his own niece. By this marriage the Princess becomes stepmother to her cousins, sister-in-law as well as niece to the King of Italy and aunt to her own brothers and sisters. More wonderful still, she is sister-in-law to her own mother, while the Duke is son-in-law to his own brother, cousin to his own children and nephew to his brother, the King of Italy. Talk about your Philadelphia lawyers, bah! They don't know anything compared with what an Italian historian should know to trace out these genealogies. Meanwhile the preparations go on, presents, processions, illuminations, military parades, all will be given to add a false glory to, or rather hide the shame of an incestuous marriage.

Three German generals in the employ of the Sultan's government have gone on a strike; that is to say, they have thrown up their appointments. The strikers demand payment of arrears, increase of wages, and regular monthly payments for the future. To these demands the Sultan replies that he has no money nor sees a prospect of getting any. Everybody in the Ottoman Empire is on a strike more or less, and it only remains for the Sultan himself to follow the example of his subjects. No money, no Sultan. Such a catastrophe would be even worse than the strike of the German generals. As if to make matters worse, the Russian government has seized this moment of general stagnation to demand its little bill in default of which it may seize on a few of the Sultan's outlying provinces, for although his sublimity has no money, he has property which can be seized. England also holds a heavy mortgage on the Ottoman Empire; and so the much dreaded Eastern question seems likely to solve itself by the utterly indefinite suspension of cash payments.

It is reported that the Sultan spends an incredible sum varying from one thousand to one thousand two hundred million dollars annually on his household at Constantinople. This must be a gross exaggeration, otherwise nearly the whole revenue of the country would be spent in maintaining the Sultan and the twelve thousand persons that form his retinue. There can be no doubt, however, that the Sultan spends far too much on his palace and their inmates, and he would act wisely in cutting down his expenditures to a moderate sum, even if it were necessary to shut up half his palaces and discharge three-fourths of his over-numerous retinue. As matters now stand the Sultan's army starves on half rations, or no rations, while a parcel of idle people, of no earthly utility, live luxurious lives. Even with all drawbacks the Sultan's revenue is amply sufficient to pay all debts, if the finances of Turkey were administered like those of any other nation.

What a change from former times! When the Mohammedan armies captured Jerusalem, they sent for the Calif Omar to come and take formal possession of the city, and it is said he made the journey alone, riding on a red camel, with a bag of dates for his own food and a bag of corn for his camel. The first great achievement of the Mohammedan power was the establishment of public schools beside every mosque, throughout their dominions. To them we are indebted for the science of algebra, and our present system of arithmetical notation. They first taught us the rotundity of the earth. The first medical college in Europe where human bodies were dissected, and the first astronomical observatory, were those established in the Mohammedan dominions. In the lands still ruled by them the first great nation was born, the first well-organized government was formed, and the cradle of civilization was rocked. From lands still ruled by the Sultan issued that spiritual and intellectual light, which to a greater or less degree pervades society, and is destined to dominate the world. How degraded have Mohammedans become! They now look with dread upon that great evangel of progress—the locomotive, which has brought their capital within a two days' journey of Central Europe. How will it be when the iron horse will cross the straits where Xerxes crossed, and the iron rails are laid up through the mountain lands of Bithynia, Phrygia and Cappadocia; through the plains of Mesopotamia, and the grand old valleys of the Tigris and Euphrates, to where at the head of the Persian Gulf they shall meet alike the waves and commerce of the Orient? What a transfiguration will then take place, when the natural riches of the east shall be enhanced with the industry and vigor of the west. When the citizens of Britain can take their regular autumn holiday by visiting the tombs of Cyrus and Alexander and viewing the ruins of Nineveh, Babylon and Palmyra.

Perhaps the next great social—also great political—event will be the grand reception of the emperor of Germany at Rome in October. This will be the first official visit of a crowned head since it became the capital of United Italy. Plenty of monarchs have visited Rome since 1870, but they have come *thoogists*. The old Emperor William came as far as Milan in 1875, and was there met by King Victor Emanuel. But no official visit

has yet been paid to the capital of modern Italy for fear of wounding the susceptibilities of the Pope. By the way, it is said that considerable diplomacy was necessary before the programme of this visit was finally arranged. The Pope is said to be satisfied that the visit shall take place. The government of Italy is making great preparations. Thirty thousand of Italy's finest troops will be reviewed on the famous *Campagna Romana*. A grand reception will take place at the Capitol, also a fantastic illumination of the Colosseum, the Ancient Palace of the Caesars, and the Ancient Roman Forum. J. H. W. Europe, September 27th, 1888.

#### CONFERENCE IN IOWA.

KEOLA, Iowa, Sept. 26th, 1888.

Editor Deseret News:

The Iowa Conference convened according to appointment in the Ransom school house about five miles northwest of this city, on Saturday Sept. 22, at 10 a. m. There were in attendance D. E. Harris, president of the Northwestern States Mission, and the following traveling Elders of the Iowa Conference: F. T. Gunn, Chas. H. Grace, J. M. Murdock, Parley Christiansen, M. M. Miner, E. Udall, A. Hunt, C. F. Chadwick, W. A. Taylor, W. H. Neibaur, J. B. Morrison and E. Mace; also a number of Saints and friends.

Conference was called to order by President Harris. Singing. Prayer by Elder F. T. Gunn. Singing. President D. E. Harris stated the object of these conferences. Said there was a great responsibility resting upon the Elders, in preaching the Gospel and warning the people of the judgment of God that await them, if they neglect the teaching of His servants.

Elder Parley Christiansen related some of his missionary experience, and said the Lord had blessed him in his labors. He bore a strong testimony to the truth of the Gospel.

Elder C. H. Grace said that faith was the moving cause of all action. By it we are enabled to become the sons and daughters of God, by observing His commandments.

Elder C. F. Chadwick spoke upon the principle of faith, without which it is impossible to please God, and said that it was the principle which actuated us in all our undertakings.

Elder Edwin Mace bore his testimony. Singing. Benediction by Elder Wm. A. Taylor.

2 p. m. Singing. Prayer by Elder W. H. Neibaur. Singing.

Elder Martin Miner was the first speaker. Said he had a testimony of the Gospel to bear before the world and was not depending upon the assertions of others. He exhorted all to be diligent in searching for truth.

Elder F. T. Gunn read the first chapter of Galatians, and treated upon the first principles of the Gospel. Said to become a member of the Church of God it was necessary to comply with the laws of adoption.

Singing. Benediction by Elder Ammon Hunt.

1:30 p. m. President Harris read from St. Matthew, 6th chapter, 33 verse, and spoke upon the organization of the Church as it existed in the days of Christ and His apostles.

Sunday, Sept. 23d, 10 a. m. Singing. Prayer by Elder J. B. Morrison. Singing.

Elder Wm. A. Taylor: Referred to the 21st epistle of St. John, 1st verse, proving that those who abide in the doctrine of Christ, hath both the Father and the Son, and showed the doctrine laid down and practiced by the ancient apostles; briefly explained the apostasy from the primitive church.

President Harris proved from St. Paul's writings that the mystery of iniquity had already begun to work and lead away the Saints in his day, and that Christ would not come "except there come a falling away first."

Singing. Benediction by Elder John M. Murdock.

2 p. m. Singing. Prayer by President D. E. Harris. Singing.

Elder E. Udall quoted the Lord's Prayer; said the Christian world had been praying for the last eighteen hundred years, "Thy Kingdom come," but since the Kingdom had come they will not comply with the requirements thereof.

Elder F. T. Gunn, followed by speaking upon the restoration of the Gospel. He elucidated very clearly that the church of God is built upon revelation, and had been established for the last time.

Singing. Benediction by Elder W. H. Neibaur.

7:30 p. m. After the opening exercises, President Harris spoke upon the divine authenticity of Joseph Smith's mission, and explained the manner in which he received the records containing the Book of Mormon.

The conference concluded by singing "We thank thee, O God, for a Prophet." Benediction by Elder F. T. Gunn.

C. H. Grace, Clerk of Conference.

Mrs. Jennie Farnum, accompanied by her 3-year-old son, was arrested at Rawlins, Wyoming, Saturday, by Sheriff High, charged with larceny from Lander with a Mr. Thomas E. Gill and for kidnapping her own child. Her attorney procured her release on a writ of *habeas corpus*. The evidence showed conclusively that Mrs. Farnum was unaccompanied by any one except her own child; that she and her husband could not agree, and that she left him for the purpose of going to Colorado to live with her brother-in-law. No one appeared for the prosecution, she was released and left for Colorado.