

THE DESERET NEWS.

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The Loyalty of the Latter Day Saints.

In this number will be found a lengthy communication from a correspondent on the subject of the loyalty of the Latter Day Saints to the Government of the United States, to which place has been given, not because there is any necessity, in our opinion, for the publication of such a labored effort to prove a fact that has long been established beyond the successful confutation of their most bitter and virulent opposers, but from the fact that the writer is evidently a new beginner, judging from his prolixity, and we do not wish to discourage any who have talents which, when properly improved, may be of much benefit to themselves and to others.

It is an old saying, that practice tends to perfection and, if our gifted friend will occasionally try his hand at composition, he will unquestionably soon be able to write a communication in less time than he did the one in question, and at the same time use less words in conveying his ideas without detracting from the force of his arguments or the lucidness of his conclusions.

The loyalty of the Latter Day Saints to the Government of the United States has never been disproved. Men of corrupt minds, enemies to God and man, have asserted, "time and time again," when they knew to the contrary, and all the circumstances of the case gave the lie to their asseverations, that the Mormons, so called, were traitors to the Government, had no respect for and did not support the Constitution and did not observe and obey the laws of their country. The falsity of these declarations has long since been established, and thousands of tales that have been put in circulation concerning their defection and the commission of crime by hiring priests, corrupt officials, interested speculators and others down through all the grades of lying correspondents and unscrupulous editors to the gambler and the bandit, have by the lapse of time been proved to have been untrue, without any exertions having been made, by those who have been traduced, to disprove the assertions thus wickedly and maliciously made.

It has long been considered impolitic, by wise men, to expend time in correcting any evil that might exist, when, if let alone, it would soon cure itself without injury, except to those who were engaged in its production. The wicked will do wickedly continually, and cannot or will not understand what the Lord is doing in the earth, and it is worse than useless to endeavor to convince them of their errors by the course that has generally been pursued in converting the world. Such characters will perhaps come to a knowledge of truth at some future period, but by a different process and by other and more effectual means than by contradicting every foolish lie that they may choose to utter against those they hate, because of their adherence to the principles of life.

There are many things, it is true, that are said "and done" by the wicked that need to be exposed and corrected, not for the benefit of those who originate and perform the deeds, or that utter and circulate the falsehood, but for the benefit of those who may not have the means of knowing the true state of things as they exist, neither the true character of the individuals who seek to palm off their slanderous effusions under some specious pretext, to bring about an order of things from which they expect to reap some pecuniary or other reward. Not unfrequently are honest, unsuspecting men deceived by reports professedly coming from "highly respectable and disinterested gentlemen," and even rulers and Government officers have been led astray by the misrepresentations of designing men, and have been thereby induced to do things that they would not have done if they had known the facts in the case. Such might be benefited sometimes by the exposure of iniquitous schemes, as soon as their existence becomes known, and it is due the honest at all times to be put on their guard whenever there is danger approaching of which they are not aware.

So far as the majority of mankind are concerned, they have been so often deceived by reports about the disloyalty of the Latter Day Saints, and the many secret and overt acts of treason said to have been by them committed, that if they have not learned better than to believe such statements, by whomsoever made, they

probably never can learn anything by experience, and if we ever spend much time in trying to correct them on those points it will be after this and when we have little else to do.

In making these remarks we do not wish to be understood as in the least depreciating this first effort of one who is zealous in a good cause. We hope he will continue to improve upon whatever talents he may possess, and that others will follow his example, tho' we would prefer to have them a little more brief.

RETURNED.—Our Special agent, Elder Joseph Bull, has just returned from an excursion through the northern counties, on business connected with the pecuniary affairs of this office. He makes a very favorable report of his success in collecting and arranging certain accounts due from individuals, some of them of long standing.

Wherever he went he was cordially welcomed and a good and willing spirit was manifested by all to square up and make things straight and right.

He will in a few days make a visit to the settlements in Tooele, after which he will go south.

BITTEN.—The trust reposed by some of our citizens in transient persons, who, apparently, had no legitimate business, but came here to follow gambling, has, in more than one instance, during the summer and fall, been attended with a little inconvenience. Perhaps not in every instance, but in many, those who have loaned money to, gone security for, or in any way trusted such fellows, have been the sufferers to the full amount of the sums in question, as those who were thus benefited by their credulity have left, as such gentlemen generally do, without deigning to give any notice of their intended departure; or, if they did announce their intentions of becoming residents of some other country, they, at the same time, informed their special friends that they were unable to pay what they owed them.

If such men would learn anything by experience as they pass through life, it might profit them to get bitten in that way occasionally, though it would be far better if they could acquire a competent knowledge of the human race to enable them to pass safely through the world without paying for it so dearly.

VAGRANCY.—It is to be hoped that at the next session of the Legislative Assembly of this Territory, which will commence on Monday the 12th day of December, in the Social Hall in this city, a suitable law in relation to vagrancy will be made and provided, the law now in force not being sufficiently salutary in its operation.

There are not a great many vagrants in the Territory, but there are a few in this city, and scattered about the country, that should be made to earn their living, or show by what means they subsist, as they are never seen doing anything that would indicate that they were obtaining an honest livelihood, but are lounging about day after day, some of them often drunk and seldom sober.

No man can obtain an honest living in this country and be idle, unless he has an ample fortune, and in our opinion if every idler was supplied with suitable employment there would be but little stealing done in comparison to what there is now, according to reports, which, there are good reasons for believing, are too often true.

Idleness is a great index as well as incentive to crime, and whenever persons are seen moving about with no visible means of subsistence, it is but reasonable to suppose that they sustain themselves by other than honorable pursuits. A good wholesome vagrant law, judiciously administered, would have a beneficial effect upon such characters, and their numbers would soon be diminished.

NEW STORES.—Although there has not been any late importations of merchandise into the city, excepting what Messrs. J. B. Kimball, & Co., and Mr. Godbe received from California, still there are new stores being opened occasionally, and great bargains can be had, so say the venders, by calling at their shops, which all can do who wish to buy.

This feature in merchandizing is indicative of something which is better understood by those who are engaged in it than by some who are not. It is an old saying, that without a thorough knowledge of mathematics, men should never engage in merchandizing, and it is presumed that these new merchants are proficient in that science, otherwise they may not know how much they will realize by their mercantile operations.

Settled Down!

Our friends of the *Mountaineer*, after three months hard service, during which time they have taken many a tramp, corrected several officials, elected Gen. Houston to the Presidency, and performed divers valorous acts, the last of which was the annihilation of a weaklie paper published in the city of Gotham, called the *Century*, have "bid adieu for a season to the mountain heights" and concluded to remain in the city during the winter and devote their time more or less to the subject of education.

No particular change seems to have taken place with them, excepting that their visual organs have evidently been impaired by service and they cannot discover objects of no inconsiderable magnitude at a greater distance than about forty rods, without artificial aid and, not being much acquainted with optical instruments, use a microscope for taking distant views.

What success may attend their efforts to revolutionize the system of education now being followed in this Territory, remains to be seen. It may become popular to annihilate school houses already provided and have a system of evening schools and lectures established in rooms and houses yet to be erected this winter, in place of the many day schools now in successful operation, but we think that the expense attending the scheme will operate somewhat seriously against the change being made at once.

To a course of lectures on any scientific subject no one would object, neither to evening schools, when properly managed and, if there are any persons having the requisite qualifications, who wish to impart to others the knowledge they may possess, they ought to have the privilege and we would recommend such to provide themselves with rooms and enter at once upon the business and thereby pay a debt they owe to their fellow men. However, if they wish to lecture on different subjects, including agriculture, that important matter should not be put off till Saturday night.

BAD TRAVELING.—The roads have been worse than bad for some time, ever since the stormy weather commenced. The soil in this Territory, especially in the bottom lands through which most of the roads pass leading to and from this city has great absorbing qualities, and in rainy weather, they are invariably muddy, and ever will be, until they are macadamized or graveled, which under the circumstances would be attended with an expense, from which our friends below, most unquestionably would claim exemption.

Bad roads are a great inconvenience to the traveling public, and good ones are appreciated even by those who would not pay a dime, if they could avoid it, towards making or keeping them in repair; and so far as our knowledge and experience extends, those are generally the ones who complain most and are very vociferous if there is anything in the way that might decrease their speed when traveling upon the public high ways.

The probability is that the roads will not be good again till the frosty weather operates upon them sufficiently to freeze up the mud, and from present appearances that will not be very soon, as the weather is not cold, but stormy, and the streets and high ways may be worse before they are better.

THE WEATHER.—Clouds have constantly overshadowed this valley during the week, snowing and raining occasionally. The weather clerk says that there has seven inches of snow fallen in this city, making over and inch of water. The thermometer ranging at the time from 32 to 38.

When not raining or snowing, it has been foggy or misty, so much so, most of the time, that the mountains could not be seen, and it has been most emphatically a dull monotonous time. The sun has been seen only once or twice for a long time and the weather wise cannot predict when it will again make its appearance.

SLEIGHING.—The snow that fell on Thursday evening last, altho' sufficient in quantity, did not make very good sleighing as the ground was not frozen, still it was used to some extent in the forepart of the next day, Friday, more for the name of the thing, of course, than for the pleasure it imparted, as sleighing, when the runners cut through the snow into mud several inches deep, is not particularly calculated to produce much hilarity.

WANTED one hundred bushels of Potatoes, if delivered soon.

CACHE COUNTY MILITIA ORGANIZED.—As will be seen from a communication in another column, two battalions of militia, in the newly settled county of Cache, have lately been organized, in accordance with the laws of the Territory, by Gen. West, commanding the Northern District. That is right, and as it should be, for without "a well regulated militia," the people in any new State or Territory, and especially in a detached frontier county like Cache, are not always safe from invasion, and their property is often held by a very uncertain tenure.

It is presumed from the circumstances that have attended the formation of the settlements in that valley, as they have, with one or two exceptions, been made this fall or in the latter part of summer during the existence of an Indian war in that vicinity, that the people are well supplied with arms, the right to bear which the Constitution declares "shall not be infringed." If they have not a sufficiency of good serviceable weapons of defence, including, at least, one good piece of artillery for each settlement, they should lose no time in obtaining them.

Good rifles are plenty and cheap, much more so than they have been formerly, and every man should have at least one always on hand and in good condition, ready for use at a moment's warning, and as many more as he may choose or deem necessary. When well armed, the lives and property of settlers in a wilderness country are much safer than when they are not.

The existence of but an inferior piece of ordinance in detached villages or settlements has saved them from attack more than once, in this Territory, during the Indian wars through which the people have passed. Even the report of a cannon alarms an Indian, and many white men tremble and turn pale at the sight of such arms. They are great preservers of the peace, and without them our national birth day cannot be properly celebrated, and the observance of many other national holidays would be insipid affairs if the roar of cannon was not heard among the other notes of rejoicing.

If anything ever transpires that shall cause the people of that county to vacate their homes the arms that they cannot conveniently take with them will be already cached.

—A correspondent of the *Highland Democrat* freely discusses the Democratic candidates for the Presidency. Douglas and Wise, he says, are visionary and vacillating; Dickinson is sound, but unpopular; Seymour is of inferior mind. Sam Houston is the only man who answers all the requirements of the case; "his views are National, his uniform course as a statesman conservative and Union-loving, and his character pure, without reproach, and that of a pious Christian."

—A writer in a communication to the *Rochester Democrat* denies the impossibility of a person with resolution, determination, and perseverance, breaking himself of the habit of opium eating. He is now an old man of seventy and for four years has not used the drug in any shape, though before that he had been an opium eater for forty years. When he commenced breaking himself of the habit he was using the opium at the rate of eighty grains per day, and it took him about two years to accomplish his purpose.

—A letter was received at the Chicago post office, directed "To an Honest Man." The chief clerk sent it to the dead letter department, with the candid confession that the man addressed did not live in Chicago.

—A Western paper, after noticing a melancholy instance of intoxication, a man trying to cross the street like a bull frog, says: "We left him ruminating on the principles of horizontal propulsion, with corn juice as a motor."

—A silver mine was lately discovered on the La Slevra Rancho, near Fort Tejon, by a Sonorian. A sample of thirty four pounds had been forwarded to San Francisco for assay, and the ore pronounced worth \$200 per ton.

—Another Indian arrow head has been found in the claims of Lewis and Hiscox of Buckeye Hill, near North of San Juan. It was found one hundred and fifteen feet below the surface, in solid dirt, over which had grown a tree six feet thick.

—The Russian Government has just commenced a railroad to connect Kiev to Odessa. It will take fifteen years to build it, and will involve more difficulties and a heavier outlay than would a road from St. Louis to San Francisco.