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TRY AND BE DECENT!

Why is it that preachers and editors who do not believe in that which is commonly called "Mormonism," almost invariably assail it from the standpoint of their own error? Sometimes from lack of understanding, often with perverse intent, they misstate the doctrines of our Church, its ordinances, discipline and purpose, and base their attacks upon those untenable grounds.

We do not wish, just now, to particularize, either as to present and special distortions or those who use them. It is on general principles we wish to speak. It is a trite saying that "Truth is mighty and will prevail." Falsehood may flourish for awhile and serve an evanescent purpose, but it will as surely fail in the end as that darkness is dispelled by light.

If the principles of "Mormonism" are incorrect, why not state them as they are and as understood by the people who hold them as true? Why put them always in a false light, and then proceed to ridicule or subvert them by casuistry and sophistry? Why twist them out of their natural form and then hold them up, distorted and dressed in burlesque garb, for the gibes of infidels and the laughter of the foolish and the vicious?

"Mormonism," as it is dubbed, is honestly and devotedly accepted as divine, by many thousands of men and women who have closely investigated it, and who have demonstrated their sincerity by "leaving all things" for its sake. The men whom they receive as holding divine authority to proclaim it and administer its ordinances, have given the most striking proofs human beings can offer, of their faith and readiness to sacrifice themselves and all they have for its maintenance. Why not treat them fairly, and if they are deemed wrong, point out their errors instead of taking ulterior means to injure and do them harm?

As sure as there is a Supreme Being who governs this universe, this system and the people who uphold it are going to be a power in the earth. They cannot be stamped out, nor overcome by the cunning craftiness of men or the forces of evil arrayed against them. If their opponents are wise, they will look a little ahead, and question whether it will be profitable to wage the petty and virulent warfare that is attempted, once more, for either gain or ambition or irrational hatred.

For the sake of probabilities that in this fast age will not take long to develop, we ask "our friends the enemy" to adopt a different policy and endeavor to be fair and decent, and if they must oppose, do so on ascertained facts and truths, and if they can convince the "Mormons" of error in their system or their conduct, they will make some real headway, and have the satisfaction of proceeding along the lines of reason and of conscience.

THE STRIFE REVIVAL.

An article which recently appeared in a San Francisco paper, and which was evidently inspired by anti-"Mormon" animus, is copied by the Ogden Standard, with some remarks from the editor of the Standard that we think are timely and therefore reproduce them. After speaking of the article as one of a number appearing in different parts of the country, the Standard says:

"Careful reading will disclose the fact that the author of the article is not a stranger to Utah affairs, and the opinion is expressed that these inflammatory editorials are being inspired by a bureau of promotion existing either in Salt Lake or Ogden, and having for its object the arousing of outside public sentiment to antagonize the Mormon people and re-establish within the State the old bitterness that did so much to retard the growth of the industrial home and keep Utah in the throes of a religious warfare."

"Mormons and Gentiles who are without ulterior motives, such as political preference or a desire to gratify a hatred derived from pique or other petty promptings, are utterly opposed to a retrograde movement toward old conditions. They must be given convincing evidence of church interference in politics before they will lend aid to any agitation calculated to throw this whole region in an uproar and supplant the present contentment with turmoil and mistrust."

The present movement is but a revival of old issues and hatreds that it was hoped had been relegated to the cemeteries of the defunct. But they appear to be subject to political and sectarian galvanism, and are waked out of their tombs to do temporary duty in the hope that they will accomplish something permanent. However, they effect nothing that sub-

stantially injures the Church or the people assailed, and we have been unable to discover any real good or profit accruing to the promoters of the disturbances. We believe the Standard expresses the candid sentiment of the best, bona fide citizens and stable residents of this State, and do not think the enemies of our peace and union will reap any great harvest of prestige or satisfaction from their works of discord.

PREST. SMITH'S BIRTHDAY.

The Deseret News voices the feelings and sentiments of the masses of the people of Utah, in congratulating President Joseph F. Smith on reaching his sixty-fifth birthday, in the enjoyment of splendid health and vigor of both body and mind. The event occurred on Friday, Nov. 13, and the President's family and friends enjoyed in the evening a celebration of the day, wishing him long life, continued happiness and the richest blessings of heaven and earth.

In every congratulation and benediction, the whole Church over which he presides will heartily join, for there has never been a man at its head who held a higher place in their affection, confidence and esteem than does our honored chief, President Joseph F. Smith, son of the lamented Patriarch who, with Joseph Smith the Seer, "sealed his testimony with his blood," and lived and died a hero and martyr for the truth.

May our beloved President continue to enjoy the spirit and power of his high office and calling, the love of his people and the strength and inspiration needed to direct the affairs of the Church of Christ in the last and greatest of dispensations. His whole life has been a credit to the name he bears, an example to the Latter-day Saints, and a dedication of soul to the service of God and the welfare of mankind. May the choicest gifts and blessings from on high crown his days on earth to his last moments and his latest breath!

REFINED CRIME.

Judge Charles A. Flammer of New York, who has served for thirty years on the police court bench, recently reviewed the past criminal record of the great city. He arrived at some quite interesting conclusions. One was that drunkenness is certainly on the increase, and that the percentage of female offenders against the laws of temperance is continually growing. He said that the drunks that came before him thirty years ago were of the irreclaimable class. But now they represent different classes, from the top to the bottom of society, and women are no longer rare specimens in the police court. "Today," he said, "the woman drunk is a familiar spectacle, both in the rags of poverty and the finery of wealth. Our police courts are overrun with them. Year by year the number increases, and the average of well-dressed women among the offenders grows steadily."

Another observation he made was that crime among the children is on the increase. This is only to be expected, as a result of the increase of lawlessness among women. Judge Flammer has an explanation of his own regarding this. He points out that thirty years ago, a uniformed policeman was an awe-inspiring personage in the eyes of the children. Now they are objects of contempt. "The newspapers," he continued, "have pounded the unfortunate bluenose so hard and so much that the small boy thinks it a patriotic act to 'check' a policeman. In the old day a policeman's word was law to our small folk. Now they stand and give him an argument. Yes sir, I believe that the steady increase of juvenile arrests is due to the cheapening of our policemen in the public eye."

The judge in this explanation embodied an important principle of truth, recognized by the greatest law-givers the world ever had. In the Mosaic code, this principle found expression in the law that made it a serious offense to take the name of the Lord in vain, or treat parents, or others in authority, with disrespect. The law-giver knew well that from disrespectful words about God, or those in authority by His will, there is only a short step to actual rebellion, and moral degeneracy. It is the disregard of this principle in modern times, that is responsible for much crime. And the press is not without blame. Nor is the stage. When those who represent law, order, and legitimate authority are ridiculed in word or picture, that which they represent is thus assailed. And it has its effects especially upon the mind of the young, upon which almost any imprint can be made, as upon an unwritten sheet of paper. Some laugh at such attacks. It is the laugh of fools at the enticing cup of poison, because they know not its nature. Wise men do not laugh at the secret sources from which the body of the nation is being charged with poison.

The judge thought, however, that notwithstanding the increase of female and juvenile offenders, the general moral tone of the community was improving. He found, for instance, less cases of burglary and such crimes, while cases of cheating and refined dishonesty were more numerous. Whether this was an improvement, depends on the point of view from which it is regarded. Some would say that an out-and-out holdup would be more respectable than the holdup that is perpetrated under the guise of an honest business transaction. They would prefer the work of a highwayman, who takes the purse and the watch, to that of the snafu who robs the poor, as well as the rich, by extortion, after competition has been assassinated. They would regard the thief that hides behind a burglar's mask, as no worse than the respectable thief who hides behind his office desk and ledger. If it is true that the latter class of crimes has increased, it is a great question whether it is true that the moral tone has grown better. Criminals may be more refined than they were, but before the bar of the great Judge, they are no less criminals because they succeed in putting on a less savage appearance.

CANADA WANTS SOLDIERS.

Canadians seem anxious to obtain a large military force, which can be controlled independently of the home government. Possibly this has some connection with the movement for independence, which is said to be growing rapidly among the French-Canadian element. At all events, an independent militia in sympathy with the Nationalists, would be a great aid to their cause.

The Canadian minister of militia and defense, has recently outlined his plans. According to The Army and Navy Journal, it provides for a permanent military establishment, with an enlisted force of 100,000 men, ready to take the field with complete auxiliaries, including medical corps, army service corps, intelligence department and transport. It is intended that there shall be an enlisted force of 50,000 as a peace footing, half of which shall drill every year, and another 50,000 to be held as a reserve, the members of which the annual drill shall be optional, but they are to be supplied with rifles and ammunition and encouraged to make themselves proficient in the use of firearms by practice at home. The plans provide that all the officers and non-commissioned officers needed for the entire force of 100,000 shall be thoroughly trained and required to drill every year, and with that end in view it is proposed to institute a more thorough system of military instruction, with branch establishments throughout the Dominion. Provision is made for a great central camp containing about 30,000 acres, where all officers, together with the regular force and contingents from every corps in the Dominion, may be assembled every year for instruction and maneuvers under conditions simulating as closely as possible those of actual war. In addition to this central camp, district camps are to be established at convenient points in the various provinces, where such of the reserves as desire to drill may assemble and where they will be assisted to perfect themselves in rifle practice. The plans provide for a large increase in the number of mounted men, particularly on the frontier of the Province of Ontario and in the northwest, as well as for the development of a large artillery force. The plan contemplates giving to Canada the most efficient militia organization in the world.

The total population of Canada is about 6,000,000 souls. To make them maintain what would be, practically, a standing army of 100,000 men, would seem to be to bring European militarism across the Atlantic. We hope the Canadian people are too sensible for that. At all events, it is not probable that the British government would relinquish its hold upon any Canadian military force that may be organized. The Canadians should not fall into the error of adopting a policy that would stunt its growth, as militarism certainly would. What Canada needs is close attention to the development of its vast resources. Militarism sits like a burden upon the nations that carry it. They are crippled, as was Shinarump, until he succeeded in freeing himself from the monster that burdened his shoulders.

"Up with the price and down with the people," cry the cool barons.

"Sam Parks was a mere tool," says an exchange. Yes, a machine tool.

Jordan is a hard road to travel, particularly during this very muddy spell.

The increased price of coal has had no effect in a decrease in the smoke nuisance.

A count that counts a candidate out is accounted of no account by the candidate counted out.

Henceforth it will be proper to say "as the dirigible balloon flies" in place of "as the crow flies."

All wish Senator Morgan a long life but he will never live to see the Nicaragua route chosen over the Panama.

A cargo of frozen salmon has been sent from Portland, Or., to Hamburg, Germany. The adventurers expect to make their stake out of it.

Panama is full fledged among the family of nations now. M. Philippe Bureau-Varilla, her envoy extraordinary and minister plenipotentiary, has been duly and officially received by President Roosevelt. Bravo!

The Austrian and Russian ambassadors have been informed that the Porte's reply to the last note presented by them is nearly ready. The Sultan is about the readiest man in Europe at reply if not repartee.

"I have not a shadow of doubt that the high schools are going to do college work in the future," says President Harper of the University of Chicago. What kind of work do the colleges propose to do in the future, something in the high school line?

Acting President Huguin of Colombia says the independence of Panama will never be recognized by his country; that it will spill its last drop of blood and spend its last cent to put down the rebellion. That would be a great waste of blood and treasure, for it couldn't possibly change the status quo. The fact is that Senator Huguin is talking like a whale when he is only a little fish.

The lynching of an innocent negro was narrowly averted at Mount Vernon, N. Y., yesterday. The victim of the assault positively identified the negro, and the mob was for hanging him, but finally consented to let him have a trial. He was acquitted. The mayor of the town testified that at the time the assault was committed the accused was at his house on political business. That saved him. No doubt many an innocent negro has been sacrificed to the mob's fury on a false identification, and many a one on no identification whatever.

In the death of Mrs. Mary Ann H.

Burnham, a well known and esteemed mother in Israel, her face will be missed from a large circle of relatives and friends. She was a quiet, patient, kind and unostentatious woman, firm in the faith and true to her trust. She leaves a numerous posterity who are noted for their integrity and good character, and while they feel the loss of her presence, they know that she has filled the measure of her days, having reached the age of over 87 years, and that her rest will be sweet and her glory will be great.

Salt Lake City will lose a very valuable citizen, in the departure to California of Col. John W. Donnellan, who has resigned his position as cashier of the Commercial National Bank, and will be succeeded by E. W. Wilson, who is undoubtedly a very capable man. But Col. Donnellan has been so long identified with the material interests of this city and State, and has been such a prominent figure in financial circles, that his change of residence will be a distinct loss to the community. We wish him success and prosperity in his future home.

ON RELIGIOUS TOPICS.

Boston Herald.
The Booths of the Salvation Army have not won a favorable opinion by their conduct in respect of the funeral, or funerals, of Mrs. Booth-Tucker. Gen. Booth gave orders from London, it is said, that Ballington Booth, between whom and his sister there was a very tender affection before the brother and his wife succeeded from the Salvation Army and established the Volunteers of America, should not be permitted to attend any public services or to see his sister's remains privately. Gen. Booth, it is known, has cast off his son wholly for his difference of conscience regarding his duty and his disobedience of orders. But it might be thought that he would be allowed to pay an affectionate tribute of respect to his sister after her death, although they had not since Ballington Booth was cashiered as an officer of the Salvation Army. The father's treatment of the son could not have been more disdainful if the latter had committed the sin against the Holy Ghost.

The Watchman.
People today are very generally asked: "What truth is to serve as the center and inspiration of a revival of religion at the beginning of this century?" Many answers are being given to that question. Dr. Josiah Strong thinks that we are to have a special truth for our age in the rediscovery of the Kingdom of God. Dr. John Watson varies the thought a little and has spoken eloquently about the necessity of preaching "social righteousness." The difficulty with such statements is that they make an effect of Christian truth primary. What we want is the truth that produces moral effects. For ourselves we do not believe that there is any mystery about the sovereign truth this age needs, and to which it will respond as no other—that truth is the character and claims of Jesus Christ. What we need is a new exploration and exposition of the personality of Jesus Christ, and of the validity of his claim to the mastery of the human soul. Once that spiritual greatness is vindicated and his claim acknowledged everything else follows.

The Churchman.
The modern apologist realizes that faith cannot be kept out of relation with the accretions of modern thought. A genuine Christian temper will be satisfied with nothing less than a straightforward dealing with all difficulties, for a policy of subterfuge is fatal in the result. More than that—it is alien to every ideal which the teaching of Christ justifies. A firm faith in the essential harmony of all aspects of truth is a corollary of the creed of the church, and forms the basis of a far wiser as well as a far stronger type of apologetic literature. The connecting link between the past and the present is found in the doctrine of the incarnation, in the unique revelation of God in Jesus Christ. This primal fact remains unassailed by scientific criticism. Its significance is being thrown into grander relief by its association with a more enlightened view of man's own place in history and the causes which have contributed to his progress.

The Outlook.
What we need in our schools, whether private or public, is not catechism, but religion; not definitions but life; not a teaching of religion for half an hour, along with reading, writing and arithmetic, but a fourth R added to three R's but the spirit of self-control, good will and reverence in the teachers, and a free play for the manifestation of this life of self control and good will and reverence, that it may be imparted by them to the pupils under their influence. And of this spirit neither Roman Catholic nor Protestant, nor Christian nor Jew, has a monopoly. The public school cannot teach theology, but theology is not important to good citizenship. It cannot be taught. But it can be taught in the home, and in the church, and in the synagogue, and in the school, perhaps more to impart a like spirit to its pupils.

The Interior.
Charles Darwin, being asked in his latter days whether science supported the Christian's faith in the being of God, replied that science presented probabilities both for and against it, and that the deciding vote had to be given by each individual according to his personal make-up. Neither the being of God nor the inspiration of Scripture can be proven as one proves a problem in geometry. Moral reconciliation starts not with the axioms but with postulates, not with premises which it is possible to deny, but with assumptions which men of exemplary life are bound to accept. What it is impossible to prove to a scientist, it is unnecessary to prove to a saint. The normal soul has its perceptions as truly as the normal body.

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