



ALBERT CARRINGTON.....EDITOR

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"DISPOSSESSED OR EXTERMINATED."

"The Redskins continue on the rampage, on the Plains. There is little doubt that they receive encouragement and supplies from the Mormons. Both will have to be dispossessed or exterminated, before a great while."

We clip the above from the San Francisco *Flag*, as a specimen of the malignant manner in which journalists indulge in the most reckless and base assertions against the "Mormons," without cause of any kind to call them forth.

Looked at in a spirit of candor the paragraph betrays the *animus* of the writer; for the assertion bears on its face, without argument, the proof that it is utterly without foundation, while the closing sentiment is so intensely wicked and fiendish, that we would be astonished at any public man penning it, did we not know how very base and unscrupulous many of them can be.

"There is little doubt that they receive encouragement and supplies from the Mormons." "Little doubt" must approach almost to a certainty, and that certainly should be based upon reliable information. If the "Mormons" are so culpable as they are here represented to be, and the editor of the *Flag* possesses information on the subject, he is a traitor to his country and to the interests of humanity if he does not make that information known, that the Indian outrages on the plains may be dealt with understandingly and effectively. If he has not such information, he is guilty of a crime worse than that which he imputes to the "Mormons," for he maligns a whole community with a view to have them "dispossessed or exterminated."

There is nothing to reason against in such a statement. It is a malevolent assertion, unsustained by argument, unsupported by authority,—a journalistic "squin," but a bitter and savage one, which would brand its writer with epithets we have no desire to place in our columns. And then the dispossessing or exterminating mentioned! One would almost think he had been here, and had eyed covetously, as many have done, our farms, our gardens, our orchards, and the results of our thrift and industry spread around; and had concluded it would be a good thing to drive the "Mormons" again and take possession of their property.

For what should we be dispossessed and exterminated?—for the idea is not a new one with certain public writers who claim to influence popular opinion. Is it for our having entered an Indian country poor and almost defenceless, and opened up this great and rapidly-rising west to the nation? Is it for having made roads across the plains, then as now infested by savages, bridged the rivers, made the cañons passable, and showed that the terrors of this almost *terra incognita* were not so great but people with perseverance, endurance and industry could pass through them, or settle among them and live? Is it because we showed by example, how to travel those plains and through

these mountains with comparative safety; reproaching the actions of lawless whites who have provoked the natural ferocity of the savages, by which the innocent are made to suffer together with the guilty; and ever seeking by our industry and energy to make the public domain valuable? Or is it because, without following in the track of our neighbors around us, we have made ourselves homes in this so recently forbidding wilderness, and gathered together the elements of wealth, continued prosperity and greatness, that we are to be "dispossessed," that those who envy us may enjoy the fruits of our labors? We would not like to be the one who could pen such a sentiment, under such circumstances.

Did the "Mormons" not open up the road through the Indian country from the Missouri to the Pacific? Did they not commence mail service and the transit of passengers? Have they not been the succor and support of the line of communication between the east and the west? And were they "dispossessed or exterminated" to-day, would not the progress of civilization in, and the continued opening up of, this vast western region be thrown back half-a-century? Do not flatter yourselves—ye who talk so easily of our being dispossessed, thinking of the productiveness of our soil—that if slanders and malignant assertions such as these were to have the effect desired, and we were to be again driven forth from our homes, that you would enjoy the paradise here which you imagine. We know, from hard experience, that the amount of labor absolutely necessary in these valleys to wrest a subsistence from the earth, would not suit the easy habits of those who look upon our possessions with envious and covetous eyes.

The malignant allegation contained in the paragraph quoted, can not be for a moment credited by any person of intelligence who understands the subject; but there are many thousands throughout the nation who have little knowledge of the vast extent of country over which the present Indian difficulties extend, and such people are liable to be misled by statements of this kind, as false impressions and wrong ideas have been so widely entertained concerning us, in consequence of the many false and malicious assertions that have been sown broadcast by our enemies. We have now had Indian troubles of our own to contend with for three seasons; we have viewed with deep interest the growing difficulties on the road between this Territory and the east; for we understand sufficiently well the value of unobstructed commerce and safety of travel to desire their benefits. And if the writer in the *Flag*, with others of the same spirit, had as much intelligence as they manifest malignancy, they would not expose themselves so palpably to the contempt of well-informed minds.

EDUCATION.

The extraordinary difficulties which had to be encountered in the first settlement of these valleys, called forth all the energies, powers and abilities of the men who were the early settlers, and an amount of patient endurance under the most adverse circumstances on the part of the women, that could be profitably emulated by their sisters of to-day who have never known by experience that which had then to be endured.

With every energy taxed; with every power stretched to its utmost; and with all that industry and unwavering perseverance could do, to wrest an existence from the ungenial soil; but little

time could be devoted to educational purposes, in those days. Fathers, brothers and sons, were busy laboring and toiling to find food and shelter, the native roots which were found in scanty quantity on the bench, with raw hide boiled, and similar delicacies (!) being found scarcely sufficient for the former; while a thin and worn out wagon-cover was not protection enough against the biting storms and inclemency of the winter in the Great Basin. The women found their cares multiplied, while lacking the resources to lessen such cares so common elsewhere; and every faculty was called into active exercise to make their families comfortable and aid the efforts of those who, out of doors, were struggling for the good of all.

Those were not the times, nor the circumstances, in which much attention could be bestowed on education; yet the culture of the young was even then thought of and provided for. Every little colony had its school-room, or school-rooms, where the hope of the toil-worn pioneers—their children—received instruction.

We have been accused of a neglect of education, and of a desire to have the bulk of the people remain in ignorance. These accusations, with others equally false, only require to be ventilated to be known as base fabrications. The zeal which we have ever manifested in the progress of education refutes them; and the efforts made, under circumstances which would have utterly disheartened and demoralized any other people or community with whom we have ever made acquaintance, to educate the young, prove how closely the improvement of the mind and the imparting of instruction mingles with our faith and practice.

We have no design, nor desire, to meet and controvert such assertions; but the great efforts made to promote education among the citizens of that which is now the Territory of Utah before it was a Territory, and when those citizens resided on one city block in the Old Fort, are strongly called up at the present time, when education seems to have received an increased stimulus, and is making rapidly progressive strides. While it is gratifying to see this spirit so wide-spread, it is desirable that it should be encouraged, for there is no question but the claims of existence, and a strong desire on the part of those not so richly endowed with goods and wealth to be on a level with their more successful neighbors, where nearly all are, and look upon each other as brethren, make the incentive to acquire property a stronger one than that to acquire knowledge. But there are not lacking abundant evidences of the pursuit of education under disadvantageous circumstances; while the large number of flourishing common schools, with those in which the higher branches of education are taught, also well supported, and a great many private schools, show that our young men and maidens, and our children of more tender years, are being trained and educated to give the offspring of the industrious, hard-working settlers of Utah an educational status equal to that of the children of wealth and opulence in older settled countries.

As summer glides along it would be well for competent persons to make their arrangements for opening special scientific classes, that our youth of both sexes may have opportunities during the lengthened evenings of the fall and winter to improve themselves in various studies, towards which their inclinations now direct them. Classes in phonography and law have already been commenced, and have progressed thus

far favorably, though there is no doubt but many more will turn to those and kindred studies when the toil of summer and harvest is past. Evening classes in surgery, anatomy, chemistry, mathematics, the languages, and other advanced branches of education should also be formed, independent of the tuition imparted on these subjects in the principal schools; for there are many of both sexes whose avocations keep them employed during the greater part of the day, who are desirous of improving their education.

We hope the advice of President Young given at last Conference, to send and procure the necessary apparatus for prosecuting these advanced studies, has been acted upon; and that the coming fall and winter will find education in the higher branches of study receiving very general attention.

We have brethren fully competent to teach the exact sciences, impart instruction in the classics and modern languages, and give to pupils a sound collegiate education. Their abilities and knowledge should be called into requisition; and as the curt and very often requisite phrase "pay the printer" has occasionally to be used, we say in a similar spirit, "pay the teacher," when you receive his services and obtain the benefits of his study and application in acquiring the knowledge which he imparts to you.

HOME ITEMS.

ABBATH MEETINGS.—Elder George A. Smith delivered a very interesting and instructive discourse on the early growth of the Christian Church, and its rapid decline into apostasy, pointing out the innovations made upon the principles of the gospel, and the causes which operated to corrupt and introduce the vain conceits of men for the principles of everlasting truth.

Elder Geo. Q. Cannon followed on the same subject, showing that all doctrines presented to men for their acceptance should be tested by the Holy Priesthood, and everything that will not bear the touchstone of truth revealed to them is not of God, and should be rejected. When the Christian Church fell into apostasy, the priesthood was removed from the earth, there were none with authority to test the innovations made, and the Church gradually sunk into gross ignorance of the truth, having corrupted the gospel principles revealed unto them.

AFTERNOON.

President B. Young remarked that the Latter-day Saints believe the doctrines taught by Jesus, the prophets and apostles. He pointed out the difference in the work to be performed by the Church organized in the days of Christ, and that organized in this dispensation. The command in former days was to go to the nations of the earth and bear the gospel to them; now it is to come from the ends of the earth to build up the Kingdom of God. He reasoned on the apostasy of the early Church, and showed how easily schisms could creep in, by pointing out some false theories taught by men in authority in the Church in this age. But we possess the means, provided by the Lord, of knowing for a certainty of any doctrine propounded, whether it be true or false. He spoke of the divinity of Christ, and the efficacy of his atonement; exposing some fallacies that have been taught concerning the doctrine of atonement and the mission of Jesus.

Elder George Q. Cannon bore testimony to the teachings of the President; referred to the false doctrines which have at various times come from men who sought to obtain a little more notoriety than others, and who were led astray by their evil desires; and urged the counsel given last Sunday, with regard to our dealings with those who apostatize from the truth or turn away from it.

THEATRICAL.—On Tuesday evening, the 18th, the Pope of Rome was presented, and was well played, though the audience was not a very large one.

On Thursday evening the Carpenter of Ronan was performed for the first time here, and gave most genuine satisfaction to the audience. This piece exhibits some of the workings of the Hugonots of France a few years after the massacre of St. Bartholomew, and is really a very exciting and interesting drama. The principal characters were in the hands of Messrs. McKenzie, Lindsay, Margetts, Graham, Maiben, Hardie, Thompson and Kelly, Mrs. Bowring, Miss Colebrook and Miss Alexander. The ordeal through which the novitiate for member-