

own free will and choice, and would withstand the Almighty in His attempt to deliver his chosen people, and that to the utmost of his ability; and he proved himself worthy of the choice, for he left no means unimproved which his wicked heart could devise to vex the purposes of the Most High, which gave the God of Abraham an opportunity to magnify His name in the ears of the nations, and in sight of this wicked king, by many signs and wonders, sometimes even to the convincing or the wicked king of his wickedness, and of the power of God. (Exod. viii, 28, etc.) and yet he would continue to rebel and hold the Israelites in bondage; and this is what is meant by God's hardening Pharaoh's heart. He manifested Himself in so many glorious and mighty ways, that Pharaoh could not resist the truth without becoming harder; so that, at the last, in his madness to stay the people of God, he rushed into the Red Sea, with all his hosts, and was covered with the floods.

Had not the power of God been exerted in a remarkable manner, it would seem as though the house of Israel must have become extinct, for Pharaoh commanded the midwives to destroy the sons of the Israelitish women as soon as they were born (Exod. i, 15, 16), and called them to account for saving the men children alive, (verse 18) and charged all his people saying, "Every son that is born ye shall cast into the river," (verse 22) and yet God would have mercy on whom he would have mercy (Rom. ix, 18); for he would have mercy on the goodly child, Moses, when he was hid and laid in the flags (Exod. ii, 3) by his mother to save him from Pharaoh's cruel order, and caused that he should be preserved as a Prophet and deliverer to lead his people up to their own country; and whom he would he hardened, for he hardened Pharaoh by passing before him in mightypower and withdrawing his spirit, and leaving him to his own wicked inclination, for he had set taskmasters over the Israelites to afflict them with their burdens, and caused them to build treasure cities for Pharaoh, and made them to serve with rigor; and made their lives bitter with hard bondage, in mortar and brick and all manner of service in the field (Exod. i, 11, 12); besides destroying the men children; thus proving to the God of heaven and all men that he had hardened his own hard heart, until he became a vessel of wrath fitted for destruction (Rom. ix, 22); all this long before God said unto Moses, "I will harden his (Pharaoh's) heart" (Exod. iv, 21).

Are men, then, to be saved by works? Nay, verily, "By grace are ye saved through faith, and that not of yourselves, it is the gift of God" (Eph. ii, 8); "Not of works, lest any man should boast" (v. 9); "Not by works of righteousness which we have done, but according to his mercy he saved us" (Titus iii, 5); and yet faith without works is dead, being alone (James ii, 17). Was not Abraham our father justified by works? (v. 21). Shall we then be saved by faith? Nay, neither by faith nor works, but by works is faith made perfect (v. 22); but "by grace are ye saved" (Eph. ii, 8); "And if by grace, then it is no more of works, otherwise grace is no more grace; and if it be of works, then it is no more grace; otherwise work is no more work" (Rom. xi, 6); "Ye see then how that by works, and not by faith only" a man is justified (James ii, 24).

Rom. x, 3, 4. "For they (Israel) being ignorant of God's righteousness, and going about to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted themselves unto the righteousness of God; for Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to every one that believeth." Thus the righteousness of God is made manifest in the plan of salvation by His crucified Son; "For there is none other name under heaven given among men, whereby we must be saved," but the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (Acts iv, 12); but of this the Jews were ignorant, although they themselves crucified him; and they have been going about, wandering among all the nations of the earth ever since, for the space of 1800 years, trying to establish their own righteousness, which is of the law of Moses, which law can never make the comers thereunto perfect (Heb. x, 1); yet notwithstanding their darkness and long dispersion, there

is a remnant, according to the election of grace (Rom. xi, 5), whom God will gather from among all people, whither they are scattered, and will be sanctified in them in the sight of the heathen; then shall they dwell in their land which God gave to His servant Jacob, and they shall dwell safely therein, and shall build houses and plant vineyards; "Yes, they shall dwell with confidence when I have executed judgments upon all those that despise them round about; and they shall know that I am the Lord their God" (Ezek. xxxviii, 25, 26; Isaiah xi, 11 to 16); and when this gathering shall be completed, "It shall no more be said, the Lord liveth that brought up the children of Israel out of the land of Egypt, but the Lord liveth that brought up the children of Israel from the land of the north, and from all lands whither he had driven them, and I will bring them again into their land that I gave unto their fathers" (Jer. xvi, 14 to the end).

Rom. xi, 7. "What then? Israel hath not obtained that which he seeketh for; but the election hath obtained it." And why have they not obtained it? Because they sought it not by faith, but it were by the works of the law, for they stumbled at that stumbling stone; as it is written, "Behold, I lay in Zion a stumbling stone and rock of offence" (Rom. ix, 32, 33); "to both the houses of Israel, and for a gin and for a snare to the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and many of them shall stumble" (Isaiah viii, 14, 15); but "have they stumbled that they should fall? God forbid; but rather through their fall, salvation is come unto the Gentiles" (Rom. xi, 11). "And Jerusalem shall be trodden down by the Gentiles until the times of the Gentiles be fulfilled" (Luke xxi, 24); and when the house of Israel shall be restored to their possessions in Canaan, it may truly be said, the election hath obtained it; for the fulfillment of God's oath of election to Abraham, as the father of the faithful, and the promises to his children, will obtain that for Israel, which he has sought for in vain by the law of Moses.

This is the election that we believe in, viz., such as we find in Prophets and Apostles, and the word of the Lord Himself, and as we have not room to give all the quotations in full, relating to election in this epistle, we would invite the Saints to examine the Scriptures, in connection with these quoted; and whenever they find election, or any other principle or blessing, given or applied to the house of Israel, let those principles continue with the house of Israel, and not apply that to Esau which belongs to Jacob; or to the churches of modern times which belong to the ancient covenant people, and always ascertain how the Lord, the Apostles and Prophets have applied their words, and ever continue the same application; and knowledge and wisdom will be added unto you; and in the words of the beloved Peter and Paul, we would exhort you to "work out your own salvation with fear and trembling, for it is God which worketh in you both to will and to do of his good pleasure" (Phil. ii, 12, 13); "Giving all diligence to make your calling and election sure" (2 Peter, i, 10), for this is that sealing power spoken of in Ephesians i, 13, 14—"In whom ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth; the Gospel of your salvation, in whom also, after that ye believed ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise, which is the earnest of our inheritance, until the redemption of the purchased possession, until the praise of his glory;" (2 Peter i, 11) "For so an entrance shall be ministered unto you abundantly into the everlasting kingdom of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ." Amen.—*Millennial Star*.

—Mrs. Joseph Johnson, of Salinas, Cal., took a revolver the other night and went out to scatter the caterwaulers. The pistol went off and she instantly felt a bullet in her foot, but the cats scattered notwithstanding.

—The Los Angeles Express says, "It is a singular fact that, in the whole route of the Southern Pacific Railway to the desert, though it crosses an altitude of four or five thousand feet, there is not a cut six feet deep, nor an embankment eight feet high. This is a striking commentary upon the topographical adaptability of the route."

—It is said that a farmer of Franklin county, Neb., plows his

land and does all his work with a yoke of buffalo. Our farmers prefer a span of mules or horses, or a yoke of good Devon oxen.

—The Burlington Hawkeye talks in this cheering style—"Since the Black Hills fever has been raging times have been so good and business so brisk in Council Bluffs and Cheyenne that the women of those two cities are dressing as well as the hired girls."

—During his late visit to England on Centennial business, Col. Forney must have become more than half converted to English newspaperism. The other week we reprinted a handsome eulogy of his upon the character and conduct of the London Times, and now here is a notice of a Times in imitation of the appearance of that paper, in an extract from the New York Times—"The Philadelphia Press has discarded headlines from its editorials. The reader is expected to find out what the writer is driving at before he gets half way down the column." Or if he does not it is all the same to the Editor.

—Lester's Illustrated Newspaper has the following—"It has been said the judgment passed upon men and measures in our country by the enlightened public opinion of Europe may be assumed to represent for us the probable adjudications of impartial history, inasmuch that this enlightened public opinion performs for our living age the judicial function of a 'contemporaneous posterity.'"

The following is going the rounds of the papers—"Once in a while Schuyler Colfax comes out into the front yard, and, putting his hand to his ears, listens intently to hear if his country is calling him; and then, unable to detect any sounds of that nature, slowly and sadly he goes back into the house." His country, with the proverbial ingratitude of republics, is not likely to call for Schuyler the Smiler any more, unless in connection with an investigating committee.

—The San Francisco Chronicle has the following apropos of the hypocrisy of the times—"This age, in fact, is extremely anomalous. The great majority of people are so strangely inconsistent that they preach the very contrary of what they practise. Many habitual swearers would cry 'shame' if they heard an impure witticism on the stage, and insist on chastity of language in theatre as well as church. While more or less lax in their private life, they are extremely fastidious in all public matters, and pride themselves that they live in a strictly correct age, despite all evidences to the contrary."

—The Boston Journal makes this sharp hit at presidential nepotism—"We hope the next President of the United States will have very few relatives. In fact, if he should happen to be a man who was picked up on a doorstep, it would be a tremendous point in his favor."

—Joke and earnest were combined in Palmer, Mass., lately. A negro was jokingly voted for as constable, and his election is declared legal.

—The churches in Norwich, Conn., all agreed to take up collections only in the morning, and then the people concluded that the evening services were the only ones they would patronize to any extent.

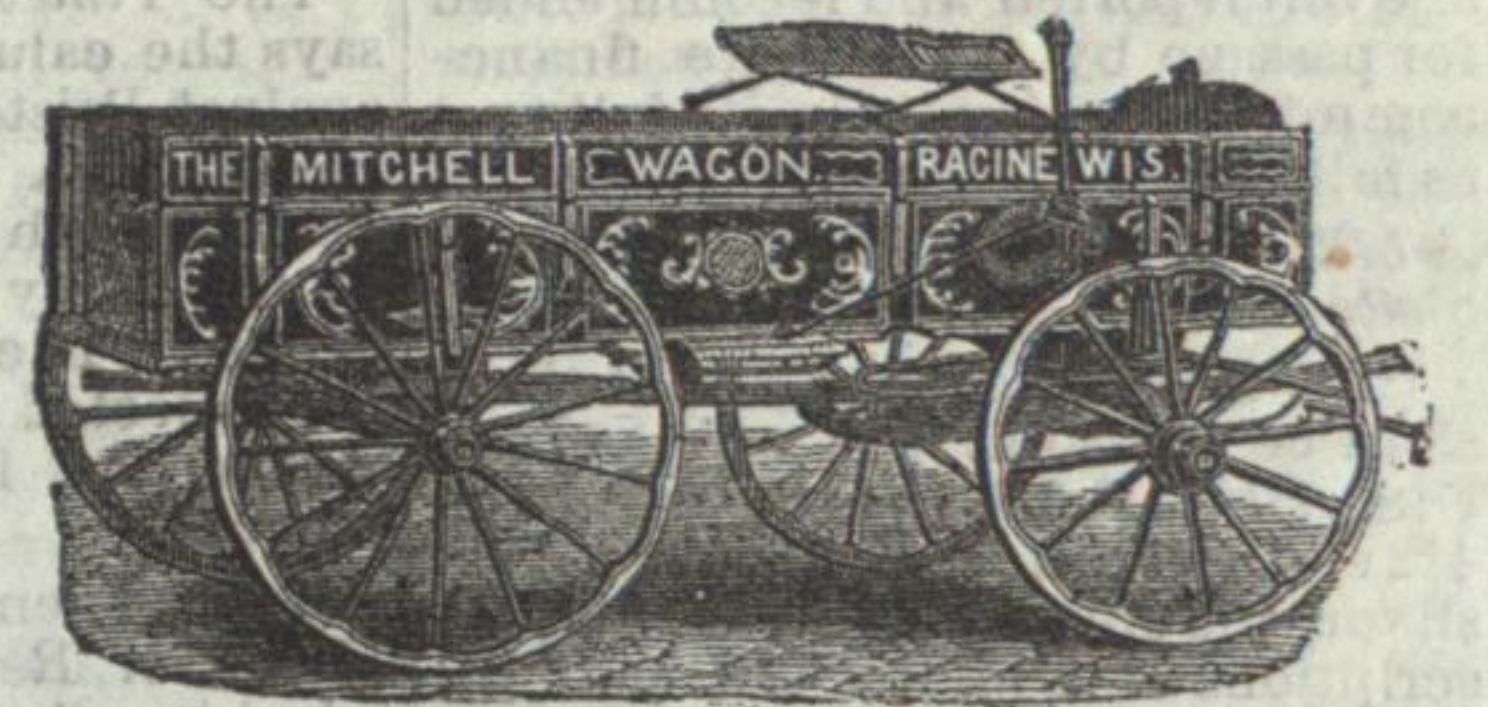
—Rabbits have so increased in Kentucky that hunting them down has become an absolute necessity. Same here, some parts of here.

—The Washington Star says, "Hanging Would be Too Good For Him"—At Rochester, N. Y., Dr. Elijah D. Wood has been convicted of procuring an abortion on Mrs. Lottie Ford, causing her death. True, perhaps, but let us be satisfied with his punishment, and that of all like him, if he and they are hung.

—Mrs. Albert Drake, of St. John's, Wis., a bride of two months, went to a doctor's to have a tooth extracted. She insisted upon taking chloroform, which was given to her in the smallest possible dose, but it killed her almost instantly. Her husband carried her in his arms out of the office to his cutter, and as he drove home with her, people in the street thought she had merely fainted.

—A shower of a millions of flies covering several acres, fell in a snow storm at River du Loup, Canada, April 3. They resembled mosquitoes, but were larger.

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