

# DESERET NEWS

WEEKLY.

TRUTH AND LIBERTY.

WEDNESDAY, - JUNE 12, 1878.

## JOSEPH COOK AND BIBLICAL HOMES.

We have in previous articles touched upon the subject of "The Family Life," in answer to remarks made by Rev. Joseph Cook in his Boston lectures, in which reference is repeatedly made to "Mormonism" and polygamy. In his one hundred and third lecture, as published in the Boston *Advertiser*, the gentleman asks: "What has Sardanapalus, what has Mormonism, what has Islam done for the ages?"

So far as "Mormonism" is concerned it would be rather difficult to show its effects upon "the ages," seeing that the system has been established for less than half a century. The lecturer asks a great many foolish questions and makes a great many high sounding remarks, simply for effect. But he had no need to link "Mormonism" with the Assyrian Emperor and the creed of Mohammed, as there is nothing in common between them. The licentiousness of the ancient monarch and the rules of the creed of the Arabian Sage, are as widely apart as the poles, and "Mormonism" is essentially different from either. Cook abounds in glittering generalities and surface ideas. He takes hasty glances at important subjects and deals out his impressions for established truths. And his admiring hearers at "the hub," no better informed, are carried away with the tide of his talk and float out upon the sea of assumption, serene in their assurance and smiling with self-satisfaction.

Mr. Cook says: "Five days in Constantinople I sought in vain to find among the polygamistic population one fresh face over forty years of age." Wonderful! In five days did the clerical traveler find out who were monogamists and who polygamists among the turbaned Turks of the crescent city? And also the ages of all the muchly married men whom he met? He admits that "undoubtedly the Turkish peasant is often too poor to have many wives." Yet he attributes the dirty habits of the people, the rubbish accumulated in the streets, the fact that dogs are the chief scavengers in Constantinople, all to the polygamous system of marriage in vogue there. What a depth of reasoning is displayed in these conclusions! Did the Rev. Joseph never see a lot of sallow, emaciated, dyspeptic, haggard countenances in American cities? And does he attribute the worn and wearied expression upon the men over forty years old, whom he meets in Boston, Philadelphia, New York and other cities, to their monogamous marriage relations? Did he never see a dirty town or village in Europe, or portions of large "Christian" cities where the denizens are filthy in their habits, unkempt, uncouth and uncultivated? And if so is this chargeable to monogamy? He is like many people who spend twenty-four hours in this city, and are then able to write a book or deliver a course of lectures upon Utah and its institutions; and uses the same logic as those wonderfully acute visitors who, not finding all the improvements in a town thirty years old and founded by penniless refugees, to be seen in cities that are the growth of centuries and built up by enormous wealth, trace every real or fancied deficiency to the practice of polygamy.

The learned lecturer concludes the discourse in which are made the remarks we have quoted, by endorsing the expressions of a German student who traveled with him in Europe, who spoke of "the Biblical ideas of marriage," moving through history "as the sweet waters of Jordan through the Dead Sea," and who thanked God that "we were brought up in homes of the Biblical species."

What kind of homes were those which are described in the Bible? The family affairs chiefly depicted

in the Scriptures are those of the patriarchs. Abraham's marriage relations, the family life of Jacob, for instance. Were not they in "homes of the Biblical species?" Take the whole sacred volume and where will he find a laudatory description of a monogamous home? The best and worthiest of the men whose lives are written up in the books of the Bible were eminent examples of the polygamie marriage system, and were the most highly favored among all the servants of that God whom Mr. Cook professes to revere. In combatting the "Infidel Attack on the Family Life" with such statements and references as those which form the staple of his lecture, he only opens the way for the assaults of skeptics and places weapons in their hands.

When "Christian" ministers wish to attack the doctrine and practice of plural marriage they should put the Bible out of sight, and when they wish to cite ancient examples of virtue and fidelity, they need not go to Pagan Rome or heathen Greece, which both reveal a rottenness and corruption equal to the social vileness of some "Christian" cities of modern times, but should, consistently, appeal to the scriptures which form their text book, where they can find a Sarah, a Rachel, a Hannah and a Ruth, who can "look into the eyes" of modern free lovers, as calmly and overpoweringly as Panthea, Phocion's wife, or the Pompeian daughter, whom Mr. Cook clings to so lovingly. But their gaze would fall with equal scorn on the reverend lecturer himself, whose arguments and epithets brand those Biblical heroines with shame, and heap reproach on the very homes and family life depicted in the book which, professedly, is the foundation of his faith. Verily his logic and his learning seem to be on a par with his consistency, and all are as thin as a coat of ecclesiastical varnish over the dead wood of a decaying and crumbling creed.

## THE SPIRIT OF THE TIMES.

TAKING their key note from the New York *Herald*, quite a number of journals in this country sing sweet lullaby on the Communist question. A contrast is drawn between the possible numbers of the Socialist, Communist and Working men's Associations, and the forty odd millions comprising the population of the United States. And this is cited to show the folly of entertaining the least idea of danger as likely to arise from so comparatively insignificant a cause.

We regard this reasoning as exceedingly shallow. A very small number of rioters compared with the population of Pennsylvania, committed those depredations last year in Pittsburgh, which struck terror to the souls of the authorities. Imagine a similar outbreak, simultaneously, in a dozen or twenty of the most important cities of the Union, managed by desperate but intelligent minds, carried on by organized political fanatics, and aided by all the tramps and rowdies of the vicinities. The insurrection would be quelled ultimately, no doubt. But before troops from our reduced army could be brought into action—the most efficient perhaps engaged in hunting Indians or protecting the frontier, what havoc could be wrought and crimes be perpetrated!

It is evident from developments in Germany and Russia that a widespread conspiracy is working in continental Europe, and extending into Great Britain, and that, whatever it may accomplish, it has for its object the overthrow of monarchical institutions and the establishment of what its adherents call republicanism, but which, if carried to its logical issue, will be nothing but mobocracy. A similar state of affairs exists in the United States. It is far more formidable than optimists imagine, and unless measures are taken to check, dissolve or meet it with strong lawful force, trouble will arise, such as this nation has not known from its birth.

We have no disposition to manufacture alarm, but we believe it to be far better to prepare for possible, and as we regard in this case, very probable, evil, than to pool! pool! the signs of an eruption, and then stand staring in amazement and terror when the volcano bursts forth in its fury. The spirit of rebellion and revolution is abroad,

and it is fermenting in high places as well as low. A determined stand will have to be taken by the powers that be, or their thrones and chairs of state and batons of authority will soon make fuel for the flames of anarchy.

## "PLANETARY METEOROLOGY."

THE New York *Herald* has for sometime made a specialty of weather predictions. Its Weather Bureau has become one of its distinctive and established features. These weather warnings have been remarkably truthful, and the prognostications have been in a majority of instances fulfilled. Great benefits have resulted from them, to ship commanders, signal service officers and the general public, in Europe as well as in America.

The *Herald* claims that every organized storm striking the Norwegian, British, French, and Spanish coasts, affects the weather in Canada and part of the United States; also that some storms affecting this continent cross the Atlantic and strike the shores of Europe.

Now comes a circular from Richard Mansill, of Rock Island, Illinois, who claims to have discovered and formulated a system of "Planetary Meteorology," by which, with the aid of a barometer, any person can become a storm reporter without the help of signal service bureaus or any expensive observations. Mr. Mansill's theory is briefly stated as follows:

"The planets are governed by a universal reciprocating (electric) force, or currents that undulate between all bodies of matter, regulating their densities, volumes, motions and distances from each other and that they go through a change of volume, density and motion at about the times of the perihelion and aphelion passages—and through these electric currents—the sun and planets are annihilated and re-created at those times. Earthquakes, tornadoes, electric (ground) currents, etc., are produced at these periods—so at the times of the occurrence of interruptions of these electric currents by planetary conjunctions—particularly the inferior and superior conjunctions of Venus and Mercury, the oppositions of the principal planets and the longitudinal conjunctions of the planets, the perigees and apogees of the moon, etc.

The reciprocation of electric currents existing between the earth, sun, planets and moon, producing earthquake, volcanic eruptions, violent hurricanes, tornadoes, auroral displays, etc., was discovered in 1866, and the first notice of the discovery was published in the winter of 1868-9."

The author of this theory, who published in 1875 an *Almanac of Planetary Meteorology for 1876*, and one in '76 for '77, claims that facts have proven its correctness, his almanacs pointing out the special disturbing positions of the planets, and the meteoric data culled from the New York *Herald* and London *Times* weather reports, and other reliable sources, showing that storms and other convulsions of nature occurred simultaneously with the planetary periods predicted. He also maintains that the most dangerous storms of Western Europe, North America, and it may be said all parts of the earth "pulsate and coincide more accurately to the times of the disturbing positions of the planets," as pointed out by his theory than any other system yet adduced, not excepting the *Herald* warnings deduced from barometric observations with the aid of the Weather Bureau and the Signal Service.

He denies that the storms which affect this continent cross the ocean to Europe, and shows that they often occur at the same time in the two hemispheres, and meet in mid-ocean, neutralizing each other's forces, and hence the *Herald's* occasional errors of calculation.

The effects of stellar and planetary influence on this globe were firmly believed in olden times, and "moonology" is still part of the farmer's faith in many parts of the world. But modern science has discarded the doctrines of the stargazers and astral prognosticators,

and pronounces the seeming truth of some of their deductions as fallacies, and their undeniable facts as coincidences. However, so-called "science" is frequently mistaken, and that which is deemed certain in one age is refuted in that which follows, and therefore there may be something in Mr. Mansill's theory, although it bears a name which, in the eyes of standard philosophers and professors of the schools, would condemn it at once.

Those who wish to learn further of the theory advanced by Mr. Mansill can address him at Rock Island, Illinois, and if they are curious enough on these matters to watch next year and see how near the truth his general predictions will reach, they can clip and preserve the following and then compare times and occurrences:

"If the positions of the planets affect the temperature of our earth's atmosphere during the year 1879, as they have done when in similar positions during the past years (particularly the positions that gave us the mild winter of 1877-78 and early spring of 1878), we may expect very erratic seasons during 1879. Agreeable to this theory we shall have cool weather set in early in the autumn of 1878; it will grow cooler somewhat faster than the mean of the season in November and through December, with temperature below the mean; tolerable steady cold weather through January, with temperature below the average of the season, and will probably remain below the mean through May, June and July—while we shall move into a hot, stormy summer about the last days of August, and these conditions continuing through September and most of October. Between the autumn and winter months cool droughts will likely prevail over large landed countries in the temperate zone, located far from the seas, while an excess of cool rains will probably occur on and about sea-coast countries during the same term."

## A FOOLISH PHILOSOPHER.

Ralph Waldo Emerson, the philosopher, in "The Sovereignty of Ethics," published in the North American *Review*, says:

"It seems as if, when the Spirit of God speaks so plainly to each soul, it were an impiety to be listening to one or another Saint. Jesus was better than others because he refused to listen to others and listened at home.

It is astonishing what nonsense is sometimes uttered by learned skeptics, and how absurd they appear themselves when attempting to make religion ridiculous. Emerson says some grand things in the article referred to, and the truth he brings forth ought not to be damaged by such sentences as that we have quoted. It is aimed at authoritative teaching; in other words, although he does not use them, against priesthood.

But carry Emerson's idea to its legitimate issue, and it becomes "impiety" to listen to him. Does Emerson himself refuse to listen to others on matters of science and philosophy? Does he shut himself up in himself, and communing only with his own heart or with his pantheistic deity, the "Supreme Intellect," ignore the sayings and teachings of the great minds of all ages?

Granting that God is in all things, to use his own words, "that He, that *It* is there next and within," are there no gradations in the manifestations of the "Soul of the Universe" through the endless variety of his creations? And should not the lower learn of the higher? Supposing students of science or philosophy, of law or medicine, were to adopt the view expressed in the above quotation, and count it "impiety" to listen to the authorities; how much progress would be generally made in either of those departments of learning? And why should not the same rule adopted in them be carried out in theology?

"The manifestation of the spirit is given to every man to profit withal," so said the great "Apostle to the Gentiles." But at the same time he laid down church law and divine doctrine with authority, and through this schism and confusion were avoided. Jesus was not "better than others because he refused to listen to others," but because he lived by the truth which he received from the Father. And being better than others he became the Great Exemplar, and being appointed at the head he was the Great Teacher, not only exhorting his followers to listen to the voice of the spirit of truth, but giving them light and counsel and commandment, by word of mouth. He complained of the people of His time, "Ye will not come unto me that ye might have life." He sent out His apostles with authority to teach and administer in His name, saying "As my Father sent me, even so send I you." Again "he that receiveth you receiveth me, and he that receiveth me receiveth Him that sent me."

The eternal and universal God speaks through the lips of His selected servants as well as by the whisperings of His enlightening spirit. It has been so from the beginning. To the Hebrews He spake by the mouths of the holy prophets; to other races by the voice of sages and seers and inspired bards; to all peoples in such a way that they might draw near to Him if they would, manifesting Himself according to their capacities and the conditions surrounding them. He is doing so now, and not only by the internal revealings of His divine spirit does He unfold the great truths of our being, but by the word of life through the appointed oracles, He declares the laws and ordinances necessary for the advancement of His people towards the brightness of His presence and the fulness of His perfections and glory.

To refuse to listen to an inspired teacher or authorized expounder of religious truth, because the Spirit of God speaks plainly to the soul, is as unreasonable and senseless as to close one's ears and eyes to the lectures and writings of the great masters of art, science and philosophy, because the same source of information to which they have so diligently sought is open to the least learned and experienced. In his desire to fight dogmatic theology, Emerson has stepped over the bounds of reason, and is caught in the quagmire of ethical nonsense.

## Local and Other Matters.

FROM FRIDAY'S DAILY, JUNE 7.

**Diphtheria.**—This malignant disease has again appeared, in one of the lower wards of the city.

**Time Extended.**—Those who go to San Francisco with the approaching excursion will have the privilege of returning any time within one month from the date of leaving Ogden, June 25th.

**Preliminary.**—The *Junction* states that a preliminary survey is in process for a railroad between Ogden and the newly discovered coal deposits in the mountains east of that city.

**Paralysis.**—We regret to learn that Mrs. Clive was recently attacked with a paralytic stroke. We are informed that her left side is comparatively lifeless, and that she has, for the present, lost the use of her speech.

**Abusive.**—Last night a young man, while under the influence of liquor, entered the Salt Lake House and insulted and abused several of the inmates. He was arrested and, to-day, Justice Pyper fined him \$10.

**From South.**—Brother John C. Naile, the manufacturer of Naile's notably excellent wine, of Toquerville, Kane County, is in town. He states that the grape crop in the south will be very large this season, and the wine product commensurately so.

**The Lost Steamer.**—Many of the Saints are familiar with the S. S. *Idaho*, which foundered, a few days ago, on the coast of Ireland. Several parties of missionaries, and, if we remember aright, companies of emigrants bound for Utah, have crossed the Atlantic in that vessel.

**Painful Accident.**—We regret to learn that Mr. S. W. Sears met with a painful accident yesterday. He was engaged in mowing the lawn